Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Cristiani on Nicaragua, Jesuits Case *[San Salvador TV]* 1
Colonel Ochoa on Need To Purge Armed Forces *[San Salvador TV]* 5
Minister Says Jesuit Priests' Case 'Still Open' *[San Salvador TV]* 6
Police Admit Arrest, Torture of Union Leader *[San Salvador Radio]* 6

Guatemala

Peasant Group on Price Increases, Economic Steps *[EL GRAFICO 23 Apr]* 6

Nicaragua

Reaction To Chamorro Decision To Keep H. Ortega 7
Godoy Makes 'Violent Statements' *[Managua Radio]* 7
Chamorro, Sandinist 'Pact' Reported *[ACAN]* 7
Youths Demand Removal of H. Ortega *[ACAN]* 8
Radio Says Quayle Supports Choice *[Managua Radio]* 8
Altamirano Sees Virtual UNO Breakup *[ACAN]* 9

Panama

Endara Announces Reform To Abolish Army *[ACAN]* 9
Arias Calderon Discusses Public Force *[Panama City TV]* 9
Assembly Names Ruben Dario Comptroller General *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 24 Apr]* .. 10
Editorial Calls for Expediting Criminal Trials *[CRITICA LIBRE 23 Apr]* 10

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Defense Minister Says Condor II Project Halted *[CLARIN 22 Apr]* 12
Comments on 'Concern' Over Project *[TELAM]* 12
News 'Well-Received' in London *[CLARIN 25 Apr]* 12
Congress Creates New Province; Includes Falklands *[TELAM]* 12
President Menem Comments *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 13
Cavallo Meets Baker, Discusses Bush Visit *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 13
Supreme Court Elects Levene New Chief Justice *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 13

Bolivia

Minister Kempff on President's Agenda in Belgium *[La Paz TV]* 13
Government, Union Comment on General Strike *[La Paz Radio]* 14

Brazil

Collor Frees Funds for Capital Goods Firms *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 14
Economy Minister Discusses Inflation, Prices *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 14
21 Military Officers To Join UN Observer Team *[Brasilia Radio]* 16

* Navy To Develop Plant Project With IPEN *[O GLOBO 11 Mar]* 16
* Data Folha Poll on Gubernatorial Frontrunners *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 19 Mar]* 18

Colombia

Leftist Candidate Pizarro Shot on Avianca Flight *[AFP]* 22
Reportedly Dies From Wounds *[Bogota Radio]* 22
Communique Confirms Death *[Bogota Radio]* 23
Avianca Pilot Reports Details *[Bogota Radio]* 23
Extraditables Claim Killing *[Bogota Radio]* 24
Extraditables Deny Responsibility *[Madrid EFE]* 24
President Issues Statement *[Bogota Radio]* 25
Serpa Says Elections To Proceed *[Bogota Radio]* 26
Serpa Addresses Nation *[Bogota TV]* 26
Political Leaders Comment *[Bogota Radio]* 27
M-19 Will Not Resume Struggle *[Bogota Radio]* 28
New M-19 Leader Stresses Peace *[Bogota TV]* 28
Liberal Party Reacts *[Bogota Radio]* 28
UP Wants Elections Postponed *[Bogota Radio]* 29
'Total Offensive' Launched Against Escobar *[Madrid EFE]* 29

Peru

APRA Decorates Chilean Socialists' Almeyda *[Lima TV]* 30

Uruguay

Rise in Unemployment Reported for Last Quarter *[Madrid EFE]* 30

Suriname

Bouterse Returns From Dominican Republic Visit *[Paramaribo International]* 30
Reacts to Arrest-Powers Bill *[Paramaribo International]* 30

El Salvador

Cristiani on Nicaragua, Jesuits Case

PA2704033590 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1745 GMT 26 Apr 90

[News conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with local and foreign reporters at the Presidential Palace in San Salvador—live]

[Text] [Moderator] Nancy Terna of "The Newscast" program.

[Terna] Mr. President, I would like a clarification on the date that you gave prior to your departure to Nicaragua. You mentioned 3 May as the date for resuming the negotiations. However, in the news conference you gave in Nicaragua you said that the guerrillas were pushing back this date. Could you tell us which is the date now, with the coming of Alvaro De Soto, who is said to arrive here on 2 May? Is there a date set for the direct meetings or not?

[Cristiani] There is no date established for the direct meetings. However, Alvaro De Soto informed us that he would be ready to come here on 2 May to try to resume the search for agreements. He had originally talked about 3 May. The 3 May date is prescribed within an agreement reached in Geneva which said that the agreement process would begin during the first week of May. Dr. De Soto explained to us that he was ready to come here on 2 May.

[Moderator] Mariela Melgar of Teleprensa.

[Melgar] Mr. President you have mentioned that the resumption of relations between Nicaragua and El Salvador would depend on if the Sandinist government gives aid to the guerrillas of this country. Do you think that the fact that Humberto Ortega remains the commander of the armed forces of the Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS] will affect this decision?

[Cristiani] In the first place, we cannot have any influence over this. It is an autonomous decision by the Nicaraguan Government of Mrs. Violeta Chamorro. We believe that it can imply some danger in the sense that, without the Nicaraguan Government knowing it, the EPS could continue to support the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. However, we believe that, based on the conversations we held and on certain agreements reached between President Chamorro and the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], the effort of the government and everyone in Nicaragua will be directed at stopping this aid, which was the condition we had maintained since last year.

Consequently, I believe there are enough factors to seek a normalization of our relations with Nicaragua. I also believe that we must realize that relations between two countries are carried out from government to government. Concerning this, we are certain that the new Nicaraguan government will not help the FMLN.

[Moderator] Enrique Garcia of EL MUNDO.

[Garcia] [Question indistinct]?

[Cristiani] First, as I have been saying from the beginning, I regret that the public media continues to speculate on, and to a certain extent, politicize this case. Speculating and politicizing in the long run only hinder the judicial process. We ask anyone who may have information or thinks he has information on this case to refrain from making public statements and to go to the judge responsible for this case and give him the information. He is responsible for screening all the information on this case and he is the one who should be given the information you may have to make it official. From where these statements may be coming—several persons have been doing this—I do not think it is right to speculate or politicize because all this does is hinder the judicial process. Therefore, if Col. Ochoa has any information to offer, he should bring it to the attention of the Fourth Penal Court judge and let him handle the case. The judge will know how to handle any new developments and continue the investigation.

[Moderator] Jorge Ernesto Rivas, of the "Al Dia" newscast.

[Rivas] Mr. President, my question concerns Col. Ochoa's statement. This was learned from the "60 Minutes" program viewed in the United States and which we also saw here. Col. Ochoa Perez issued a communique yesterday stating that he is not going back on what he said and that he did nothing wrong in saying what he said. He said that those who did wrong are the ones behind this Jesuit case. He claims that all he did was voice in public what the people are whispering about. Therefore, he believes he did nothing wrong in making that statement. What do you think about that?

[Cristiani] That is the way Col. Ochoa feels. I continue to believe that all these delicate cases that are in the hands of the Judicial Branch should be handled by them. Speculating and politicizing cases only hinder investigations. We have seen this in the past. Therefore, I reiterate that if anyone has any information on this case, he should bring it to the attention of the 4th Penal Court judge. He is responsible for this case. I do not believe that it is correct to speculate just because there is a rumor going around. It is difficult to bring justice based on rumors. Justice must be clear and all must be clear if justice is going to be done. If we comment based on rumors, all we do is harm the judicial process. We want the judicial process to work and be fruitful and anyone who breaks the law to be punished.

[Moderator] Guillermo Penate Zambrano, EL DIARIO DE HOY.

[Penate] Mr. President, concerning the same case, Col. Ochoa is a member of your government and party. Are you going to disavow his statement?

[Cristiani] In El Salvador, everyone is free to speak, believe, and think. I am only saying that I do not believe it is right to speculate on cases that are being handled by the Judicial Branch. Rather than speculating, if you have

information, then present it, because it would contribute toward the judicial process. Speculating and attempting to politicize does not support the judicial process. Therefore, here in the country there is freedom and everyone is free to do as he pleases. All I am doing is expressing my views. This is nothing new to you. From the very beginning I said we should avoid speculating and politicizing these cases, because in the past we have seen many cases ending in nothing because speculating and politicizing has resulted in total confusion.

[Moderator] Nelson Lopez, Radio Cadena Sonora.

[Lopez] Mr. President, do you believe the FMLN lacks political will in this dialogue? On the other hand, mass organizations claim that government officials are trying to polarize the guerrilla-government sectors and hinder the process of dialogue and the peacemaking process. Is there a lack of political will on the part of the FMLN? How would you describe the charges being made that government officials are hindering the process?

[Cristiani] I do not think we would be contributing to the success of this process if we were to prejudge. I believe that this is not the moment to prejudge, but to do what must be done to begin this process and see the facts. Therefore, I will not prejudge the FMLN and the attitude it will assume in light of the process that will resume in early May. Furthermore, since June of last year, the government of the Republic has been determined to find a solution by means of politics and dialogue. Everyone has witnessed the efforts that the government has been making since then. Therefore, I do not think this is the time to say that an official or someone else is trying to boycott the process. The process will not be boycotted. The government will promote the process.

[Moderator] Jose Espinosa, Radio America.

[Espinosa] Mr. President, getting back to Col. Ochoa, how could his words be termed speculatory, taking into account that he has been part of the top military leadership and knows what happens within the Armed Forces. If he is involving other high-ranking members, does it mean that behind all this lies a smokescreen?

[Cristiani] When I talk of speculation it is because of the way the information is given. If he has information—you say you believe he has information on how events developed—then I believe that instead of making speculatory remarks in public, anyone—Col. Ochoa, members and associates of the Jesuits, or anyone else who has been talking about the case—should go to the 4th Penal judge and supply the information. It is there where the trial is taking place. We want to strengthen the judicial process and not strengthen speculation or rumors in public. My opinion is that these public rumors are negative for the successful outcome of a judicial process because it confuses opinion in case they are groundless. So far I have not said if Col. Ochoa is mistaken or if he is right. My position is that if he has clear information to contribute, he should do so before the 4th Penal Court judge. This also applies to anyone else, because we have seen a host of personalities speculating, and we believe that if they know or can contribute something, they should do so with the 4th Penal judge; otherwise they are not contributing anything.

[Moderator] Raul Monge, Cadena Radio Centro, from Dallas.

[Monge] Mr. President, arms shipments to the FMLN continue, according to what we discussed with Coprefa [Armed Forces Press Committee] yesterday. In your opinion, is Fidel Castro following a new strategy to supply the guerrillas and is the government taking any steps in advance?

[Cristiani] I would prefer to say that what we have been seeing over these past few months is partly due to knowing that Nicaragua will no longer serve to freely handle FMLN arms and it is more a case of trying to introduce into El Salvador all or part of what was left in Nicaragua. Up to now, Fidel Castro has not changed his position. At least he has not said anything in public. I believe that Fidel Castro has definitely always been backing the FMLN. In fact he has really been one of those responsible for all the misfortunes of the 1980's and up to now, and we have no indication he has changed his ways.

[Monge] The government is perhaps trying to control things [words indistinct]?

[Cristiani] Of course, we have been trying to prevent as much as possible. The fact is that with the support and coordination of the Honduran authorities, we followed up on these suspicious movements and the shipment was then found in Honduras. It turned out to be a group that had brought in several shipments previously. We have also continued to investigate any suspicious activities in the country.

[Moderator] Pedro Martinez, of SEMANA and PROCESO magazines in Mexico.

[Martinez] Mr. President, when will you visit Mexico? What about the investigation you promised to locate the official who gave a statement saying that the Mexican Government and the FMLN are a rat's nest? [laughter heard in the background]

[Cristiani, laughing] First of all, there is still no date for the trip. That is being handled by the foreign ministries. We think it will take place in June. The Mexican Government said from the very start that it could not take place prior to His Holiness Pope John Paul II's visit; it should take place after the Holy Father's visit.

Second, we have questioned, through the Foreign Ministry, all the officials who went to Montelimar and none of them admitted that he had made such a statement. Therefore, only the person who wrote the article can say who it is, so that we may adopt the appropriate measures.

[Martinez] In other words, you [words indistinct] the journalist who wrote the article.

[Cristiani] Well, when someone reports something he is obviously responsible for what he wrote, and he has to base that responsibility on a source—but the source in this case was anonymous. We only questioned all the officials who went to Montelimar, where the information of the article was presumably gathered, but none of them said he had given a statement to the media—much less a statement of that nature. The important thing is that this is the government's clarification, which represents the government's stand.

[Moderator] David Rivas of AFP.

[Rivas] Mr. President, your replies to previous questions have already answered my first question. I would like to ask you something, however. Now that the dialogue process is about to start, the two sides have apparently hardened their positions. The FMLN commanders have said that, to end the war in El Salvador, there must be a solution to the problems of injustice and lack of democracy. The minister of justice, in turn, said recently that the FMLN must return to civilian life and that there is no need to negotiate. I would like to know what will be negotiated and what will be done to end the war through a dialogue with the FMLN.

[Cristiani] I am surprised by the remarks that you are attributing to Dr. Santamaria, because he is very well informed about what has happened so far. He is very much aware that there is Point Two of the Geneva Agreement, which notes that political agreements must be reached in order to put an end to armed confrontation and the violence that is affecting the civilian population. Subsequently, there will be a process for disarmament and demobilization, referred to as the total suspension of hostilities in the agreement. I believe that it is a matter of reaching agreements. We, as a government, are involved in this because we see the suffering of the Salvadoran people. We believe that it is not fair for them to live in a climate of violence in which there are so many killed, so much destruction, and so many problems.

As a government, we have always asked: What are the problems barring their returning to civilian life? They are the only group that has not joined the Salvadoran democratic process. What do they want? Let us see if there is anything reasonable that can be done. The political parties have expressed willingness to consider all that could foster or consolidate the democratic process in our country. We believe that there will be no problems. I cannot see any hardening by the government. I believe we have been flexible. We have said that the government has been immediately accepting as its own any consensus reached by the parties. In other words, at least your remark on the government is not true. I repeat, perhaps in the style of the previous question, that we do not want to be biased. In due time, we will see whether the FMLN has or has not been inflexible or hardened or whatever. It will depend on whether the FMLN's proposals are reasonable or not.

[Moderator] Pablo Yacu of [words indistinct].

[Yacu] Mr. President, concerning the economy, some of the opposition politicians I talked with over the past few days have told me that they are a little concerned. They think that, because difficulties have arisen, because there is a new situation in the country, and because the volume of the U.S. aid has diminished, the country is rapidly taking steps that other Latin American countries have already taken, to meet with the so-called consulting group formed by the leading world credit institutions and request large loans to stabilize the balance of payments. These politicians told me that they are concerned because this would impose a heavy burden on the new government, which would assume office after 1994.

[Cristiani] Well, I think the opposition politicians should try to understand that many of the measures, which certainly entail a sacrifice for the various national sectors, are responsibly taken because of the country's economic and social problems. Many people will say it is not necessary to do this or that. I would only look at what has happened to other countries which, even without the destruction and violence caused by an irregular force, such as the FMLN, have experienced much more serious problems than those presently facing El Salvador. We will also have those problems if we fail to take measures. Nearby is Nicaragua, the inflation rate of which has reached 1,700 percent, its foreign debt is enormous, and it is immersed in dramatic problems. No measures were taken in due time in Brazil and Argentina, although these measures were painful. If they are not taken on time, they will be much more painful later, because eventually something will have to be done to check the economic crisis that has been created. Presently, we are trying to stabilize the economy to start its effective recovery. It is based on this recovery that we will avoid foreign indebtedness, which for many other countries has been an easy way out and an alternative, when they should have acted responsibly concerning economic problems.

We specifically want to avoid foreign debt. We want our economy to recuperate so that Salvadorans will not have to depend on foreign aid or excessive credits and so we will not leave a heavy burden for future generations. I believe that political parties should fear other things and not a government that is implementing responsible economic measures. A government adopts these measures—although it knows that they require sacrifice and will cause a certain degree of dissatisfaction—because it knows that we are working for the future and not for immediate political benefits. We could well have gone to the Monetary Fund or the World Bank to ask for millions in credit and throw the country into debt if we were political schemers or demagogues. We could have done so and left the future 1994 government with real problems. However, we want the 1994 government to find a country in peace, first, and, second, with an economy that is on the road to recuperation and that only has to be prompted forward. So, to a certain point, I do not understand the opposition very much because they have very inconsistent positions, at least on this matter.

[Moderator] Maria Cortina, NOTIMEX.

[Cortina] Mr. President, I make reference again to the Jesuits case. I would like to know about the progress of the legal process. What is new in the investigations?

[Cristiani] Well, from the little information I have, I know the judge was studying a petition presented by the defense concerning the 4th Penal Court's right to jurisdiction on the case. I understand—unless I am wrong—I was informed when I arrived that the judge had determined that the 4th Penal Court had jurisdiction and that the trial would continue at this court. I also understand that the judge has now reinitiated the process of calling the persons who may know something about the case so that they can contribute to it by testifying in court. This is how the case is advancing. Many times, being in a hurry brings problems. Justice must be served and many steps must be taken to ensure its attainment. While there are legal procedures to be followed, the defense also has its rights and justice must make sure that it is not deprived of them. I believe the judge has been just in handling the case as he has been. He has accepted the defense's petitions, decided on them, and then proceeded with legal procedures as per our laws. The other day I was reading in a local newspaper—I do not remember which one—the statements by a former U.S. Armed Forces officer concerning the [Panamanian General Manuel] Noriega case, and this is really a problem [not further explained]. Justice has its course, its steps, and its procedures, and these must be followed or there would be no justice. If everyone was to judge and condemn because we believe something happened in some manner, many abuses would be made. I believe the judge is trying to avoid this. He wants to have a crystal clear legal process so that problems will not arise in the future, as has happened in other cases. What I have tried to explain here is that I feel the trial is developing normally and, at this time, I consider it to be going well and without problems.

[Moderator] We now pass to English-speaking journalists. Ricardo Clement of This News.

[Clement] Mr. President, you and the U.S. Embassy have always stated that there should be no speculation in the Jesuits' case. However, the investigations are being criticized because they are going badly and this has been attributed to the lack of speculation by the people who are in charge of the investigations. It is said that these officials are only investigating things that are obvious and are not conducting in-depth investigations of the possible participation of other high-level officers. This is not new. Almost everyone believes that Benavides did not order the Jesuits' massacre on his own. I understand that other high-level officers have not been interrogated or investigated during these investigations. The "60 Minutes" program mentioned Colonel Juan Armando Cepeda and said he directed the campaign against the Jesuits when he was the commander of the first brigade, but was not under investigation in this case. The program mentioned that after the command staff meeting [no date or place given, but presumably prior to massacre] another meeting was held and was attended by approximately 18 officers; none of these officers has been investigated. Another serious criticism to the investigation is that U.S. adviser Major Eric Butlin stated that Col. Benavides had made a deposition or confession to Colonel [Carlos Alfredo] Rivas who is precisely the person in charge of the investigations. This confession was allegedly made way before it was reported that Benavides was involved in this case. If Rivas knew and did not tell anyone—which apparently is the case—this would mean that the person directly in charge of the investigation had, in fact, covered up information. We do not know if this is true or not, but another strange thing is that Col. Rivas has not been investigated to see if the report is true or not. Could you comment on these charges?

[Cristiani] Yes, I think that you should tell this to the judge at the 4th Penal Court. Frankly, as I said, this case is now in the hands of the court. The judge is the one who can order future investigations into the case. Your questions relate to doubts and concerns that the judge has before him. He can summon anyone to testify. I understand that he has already summoned some top officers.

I can only say this: You have just mentioned a meeting in which supposedly I was present. You also said that it was at that meeting that the murder was planned. There is much speculation; therefore, I think we must remain cool-headed. In other words, people are speculating when they say that this could happen, this could have happened, or this could not have happened. For example, some have said that there is a cover up, but Colonel Rivas himself was the one who discovered who committed the crime.

There are many questions, which is natural. However, that does not mean that ...[changes thought] For example, I made a statement for the program "60 Minutes;" I was interviewed for an hour and a half, but obviously my replies were not aired for some reason. However, I said that it is no secret in our country that there have been many people, a great number of people, who feel that at one time or another some of the Jesuit priests were in fact linked to the FMLN. Therefore, in this case, all those who have said anything to that effect would have to be investigated. Would that be called for? What I mean is that it is very difficult to make a decision based on speculation.

Furthermore, during the investigations—conducted by the Investigative Commission of Criminal Actions, an auxiliary legal organ—we thought it was convenient at a given time, since we had enough evidence on a group of people we believe committed the crime, that the case should be handled by the Judicial Branch.

Therefore, the Judicial Branch today continues to investigate the case and decides whether to interrogate someone or not. If there is any doubt, the Judicial Branch can order the commission to investigate this or that. Whether someone is interrogated by a judge or by the commission is irrelevant; the judge must decide. I

believe that in this case the judge should investigate. As I said before, I think there has been progress. I understand that the Honor Commission will be summoned, and that another may be summoned afterward.

[Reporter, in English] Could you tell us in English? You said that you do not think that it is necessary, that many people have criticized the Jesuits, and if you are going to start investigating people, why not investigate everyone who has criticized the Jesuits. The fact remains, however, that not everybody is in a position to reprove the Jesuits, not everyone was in the military hierarchy, and not everyone was involved in the Alto Mando [preceding words in Spanish]. There are [word indistinct] people in the Alto Mando who are known to hate the Jesuits and who are known to have criticized them in the past. Why do you not think that this would be correct for those people to be investigated directly?

[Cristiani, in English] First of all, I would say that the vast majority of officers in the Armed Forces at one point or another, whether lately or earlier, that there was a widespread belief of some sort of participation by the ...[corrects himself] some of the Jesuit priests with the FMLN. This is not for us at this point and time to decide whether it is true or untrue. It is simply something that was believed out there; therefore, it is up to the judge to decide whether he will only interview one person who believed this, or whether he is going to interview many people.

There has also been the fact that it could have been the act of the FMLN, the act of individual groups. There were also speculations at the beginning when the assassination was committed as to who could have committed the crime. So there are other groups that could have committed the crime; therefore, there could be others that we could have followed the [words indistinct] investigating. But I think it is all up to the judge now to decide who he will call to testify and who he will call to interrogate. If he finds any need, he has all the power to instruct the investigative unit to follow through on anything that he reaches. It is not up to the Executive Branch right now to decide who is going to come up with testimony for the judge. It is up to the judge to decide.

[Moderator] Rolando Gonzalez, LOS ANGELES TIMES.

[Gonzalez, in English] Mr. President, I want to make a question that was asked in Spanish before, and it is related to Colonel Ochoa Perez. He has been a hard-line military. Don't you think that his [words indistinct] got to be possible? This is one, and I got a second one. Can you tell us in English what's going to be the relation with the new Nicaraguan Government, and what do you know about recent machinegun traffic of the guerrillas?

[Cristiani, in English] Well, with the first case my opinion is that anybody that has any information regarding the assassination of the Jesuit priests should—instead of speculate publicly—go straight to the court that is in charge of the case and give all the information available to him or that he is knowledgeable of, and then have the judge do something about it.

I think that mere speculation in public is something that is not good for the judicial process because it creates problems for it. Secondly, even though he was a high-ranking officer, in cases like this, it is not necessarily the opinion of a specific member of the Armed Forces is one which is totally true or totally false [sentence as heard]. You cannot simply go by that as a way to simply state that his statements are true.

It is very interesting to see that whereas before no one really would believe Col. Ochoa, all of a sudden everyone wants to give him all the credibility in this case. I am not saying that what he said is true or untrue. My point is that it should not be debated publicly; that anybody—Col. Ochoa, members of the Jesuit community, or anybody else—who has any information with respect to the trial should go to the judge and give him that information because that would be helping the process and not mere speculations in public.

With respect to relations with Nicaragua, we discussed this with one of the advisers of Mrs. Chamorro during our visit and we decided to initiate [32-second break in transmission] plans and, therefore, we are willing to reinitiate the process. Her adviser was very clear to state that they will by no means aid the FMLN in that respect. We think that what has been happening between the 25th of February and the 25th of April is that the FMLN thought that it was time to get all that was left in Nicaragua....[corrects himself] out of Nicaragua because they knew of the problems they would face with the new government, and that they could no longer go about freely in Nicaragua with their weapons and their logistic support. Therefore, they have been trying to bring them in. In that case there was a group of FMLN members who were detained in Honduras with the help of the Honduran authorities, and it was obvious that they had been shipping weapons by land through Honduran territory, but that group was detained.

[Moderator] Thank you, Mr. President; thank you, Mr. Foreign Minister. Journalists, thank you.

Colonel Ochoa on Need To Purge Armed Forces

PA2604043590 San Salvador Canal Doce in Spanish 0306 GMT 26 Apr 90

["Text" of communique issued by Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, in San Salvador on 25 April—read by unidentified announcer]

[Text] 1. The attitude of certain bad Armed Forces members should not be used to create a negative image of the Armed Forces in general. Quite the contrary, it is appropriate to purge the ranks and get rid of those bad members, so that they do not continue to harm the remaining members.

2. This public statement about the need for a purge is simply the reply to a historical requirement, because whoever reports the issue does not cause the damage.

3. As for those who carried out the order to assassinate the Jesuits, they were actually doing that—carrying out orders. I have only said in public what the people have been saying and expressing in a low voice.

4. Therefore, a national commentary does not endanger the country or the Armed Forces. Those who decided to adopt a decision, whose subsequent consequences they should have assessed, are the ones who endangered the U.S. military aid and—in the process—wittingly or unwittingly played into the FMLN's [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] hands.

5. We suppose there is information on the issue and that it is exclusively in the hands of certain groups which, for one reason or another, have failed to turn it over to the appropriate persons.

6. Just as the government of the Republic and a vast majority of the Salvadoran people hoped for, there was a thorough investigation and solution of this crime which shook the world; all good Salvadorans trust that justice will prevail and that those who violated the law will answer for the crime they have perpetrated.

Minister Says Jesuit Priests' Case 'Still Open'

PA2604003390 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Defense Minister General Rafael Humberto Larios said today that U.S. press reports concerning the participation of top military leaders in the murder of the Jesuit priests will not affect the military as an institution. He added that the case is still open in the courts.

Gen. Larios said that the case is not closed, and that the Armed Forces want complete clarification. Larios said that he does not believe that the U.S. television program "60 Minutes" implied that there are other people involved in the case. However, he added that those reports are being seriously considered.

[Begin Larios recording] This has been discussed before, as it has been brought up on various occasions. We must admit that, at this time, the legal process is being strictly handled by civilian authorities; in other words, by the judicial authorities. The process is open, and any new information or clue that could become available now can be incorporated into the case, and the respective authorities will take the necessary action. We are currently evaluating Colonel Ochoa's position. [end recording]

Gen. Larios said that the Armed Forces are willing to cooperate so that the next dialogue meeting will yield positive results that can contribute toward ending the conflict in our country that has already lasted more than 10 years.

[Begin larios recording] Despite the fact that they are carrying out actions that definitely do not contribute toward creating the necessary climate and atmosphere for conducting the dialogue process with good intentions, goodwill, and political willingness, we believe that this situation should and must change, to create the necessary confidence and conditions that will permit both sides to sit down, discuss, talk, and exchange views on areas that are important toward achieving peace in our country. [end recording]

Concerning changes within the Armed Forces top echelons, Gen. Larios said that he has no knowledge of such changes. However, he added that there are changes every month in the military as an institution at all levels, changes that are considered routine.

Gen. Larios was interviewed by the press today at Ilopango Airport, following the departure of President Alfredo Cristiani for Nicaragua to attend the ceremony during which Violeta Chamorro will be inaugurated as president of that neighboring country.

Police Admit Arrest, Torture of Union Leader

PA2604010390 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] YSKL has been informed that the National Guard admitted responsibility for the capture, torture, and subsequent remittance to the first penal court, of Jorge Alberto Villegas, former ANDES 21 June [21 June National Association of Salvadoran Teachers] arbitration official.

According to the official report, Villegas was detained at his home in the Las Arboledas neighborhood, Soyapango, and after several questioning sessions unofficially admitted he was a follower of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. It was also reported that Villegas, together with Rigoberto Orellana, Santiago Flores, and Jaime Estevez, founded the "Bread, Land, Work, and Freedom Movement", MPTTL, of which they were the top leaders.

The National Guard also emphasized that, as proof of its will to ensure that justice prevails, Villegas has been referred to a civilian tribunal to stand charges.

Guatemala

Peasant Group on Price Increases, Economic Steps

PA2604010690 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 23 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] In a document issued to mark the anniversary of its founding, the Committee of Peasant Unity, CUC, has pointed out that in addition to the constant increase in the prices of staples, economic measures recently imposed by the government will bring about even more poverty and misery.

In the document, which was distributed to the editorial offices of several media, the peasant organization refers to problems confronted in the fields and to the urgent need to solve them to prevent unpredictable situations.

"Today we must make great sacrifices and face hardship to be able to buy a quintal of corn at up to 55 quetzales, when we used to buy the same amount for 15 quetzals four years ago. The price of industrial products has increased even more," the document reads.

"The government mocked the Guatemalans' religious fervor during Holy Week by increasing the price of fuel and electricity and by adopting other economic measures that only increase hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and desperation, and further enrage the people..."

The document also states: "The wearing down of our plots of land due to a lack of technical assistance and the high price of fertilizers is causing them to become increasingly less productive. As a result, the harvests of corn and beans were very low, and in turn, the price of corn increased. The anguish caused by poverty in the fields is unbearable."

Nicaragua

Reaction To Chamorro Decision To Keep H. Ortega

Godoy Makes 'Violent Statements'

PA2604152990 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1205 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Vice President Virgilio Godoy yesterday made violent statements against President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's decision to keep General Humberto Ortega as armed forces commander.

In remarks to Costa Rica's Radio Monumental, Godoy said that he disagrees with that decision and added that he was not told about this measure ahead of time, a measure he views as mistaken.

Godoy said that in this way Chamorro rejected the resolution of the UNO [National Opposition Union] Political Council—headed by Godoy—noting that no Sandinist should be included in the new government structure.

In agreeing with contra leaders, Godoy attacked the decision of his superior and warned that the measure could obstruct the disarmament and demobilization process.

Meanwhile, extremist sectors in the defunct UNO Political Council are involved in an intense campaign to destabilize the government that took office yesterday, thus rejecting the transition agreements.

The UNO Political Council vigorously opposes the presence of Ortega as Armed Forces commander and has threatened to create chaos in the country.

On pro-UNO radio stations, the extremist leaders have issued calls to disregard the transition agreements and rejected Chamorro's decision to head the Defense Ministry.

The position of these sectors fully corresponds with that of certain contra leaders who are now threatening not to disband, despite the fact that they signed agreements to disband and have entered security zones.

According to some reports, the extremists will organize demonstrations against the new government, which is already facing several crises with the withdrawal of several cabinet appointees.

Chamorro, Sandinist 'Pact' Reported

PA2604162890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0805 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Report by Andreu Claret]

[Text] Managua, 26 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The retention of General Humberto Ortega at the head of the Nicaraguan army, which was announced on 25 April by Violeta Chamorro, confirms the existence of a pact between the new leaders and the Sandinists to guarantee a peaceful transition, in the opinion of most observers.

Diplomats who attended Chamorro's inauguration agreed that the confirmation of the Sandinist general, a brother of Daniel Ortega, is the most obvious indication of a pact that includes the "contras'" disarming on one hand, and the reduction of the Army's size on the other.

Diplomats are also asking themselves what will happen now that the "contras" have refused to surrender their weapons while Ortega remains at the head of the Army, which was announced on 25 April by the rebels' top leader, "Commander Franklin" (Israel Galeano).

The Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] ("contra") "general staff" on 25 April decided not to surrender their weapons as long as Ortega remains at the head of the armed forces. This was announced by "Franklin" in front of 600 heavily armed "contras" in El Destino, a town located approximately 275 km north of Nicaragua.

"It will be very difficult for the 10,000 contras in the country to surrender their weapons prior to 10 June if on that date Ortega is still the military chief," a military attache accredited in Managua said.

However, the Sandinists insist that Ortega will not leave, and the Army will not be substantially reduced as long as the "contras" have weapons.

Chamorro's embracing the outgoing head of state and Ortega's praise for his successor, whom he described as "the president of all Nicaraguans," were interpreted as further indications of this "pact" that makes the most radical factions of the new government very uncomfortable.

Chamorro agreed to keep Gen. Ortega for a time and for a few limited assignments: "While the RN's demobilization is completed, during the demobilization of youths (affected by the suspension of the obligatory military service), and the recovery of weapons from civilians."

According to various reports on the pact, when these objectives are accomplished, Gen. Ortega may be replaced as the head of the Army by current Army Chief of Staff Joaquin Cuadra, a moderate Sandinist.

The decision to keep Humberto Ortega has caused the first crisis within the 14-party coalition that supports the president, and between the president and Vice President Virgilio Godoy.

On the eve of the inauguration, the UNO [National Opposition Union] Political Council, which is dominated by Godoy supporters, warned that it will not assume responsibility for "the consequences" that could result from Ortega's staying on, especially the "contras'" refusal to surrender their weapons as long as Ortega remains the Army's leader.

Godoy and his followers are denouncing the existence of a "secret pact" put together behind the scenes by Chamorro's advisers—whom they describe contemptuously as "technocrats"—and the Sandinists, at the expense of Godoy.

In exchange for the Sandinists' willingness to facilitate a peaceful transfer of power, as they promised on the very day of their defeat, the Sandinists were guaranteed that some of the "accomplishments" made by a few social sectors would not be undone, such as cooperatives and assistance for thousands of poor Managua residents.

The Sandinists were also able to approve, without too much opposition at the most recent sessions of the past Assembly, a law that prevents the new leaders from holding former political leaders responsible for things that happened over the past 10 years.

During Chamorro's inaugural ceremony, Daniel Ortega calmed his supporters who were harassing members of the new government.

"I am asking the Nicaraguan people to share tasks; otherwise, the country will collapse," Ortega said, addressing his followers. He asked both sides, government and opposition, to be "realistic."

Youths Demand Removal of H. Ortega

PA2604224790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1949 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Managua, 26 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—According to political and diplomatic sources in Managua, General Humberto Ortega's continuation as commander of the Nicaraguan Army has provoked a crisis within the government coalition, was rejected by the contras, and is a matter of concern for the U.S. Government, according to political and diplomatic sources in Managua.

Vice President Virgilio Godoy, who has been radically opposed to Gen. Ortega's confirmation as commander of the Army, did not attend the inauguration ceremony yesterday; he was also not present at the reception offered by Chamorro to foreign guests.

President Chamorro today called off a news conference that was to be held with hundreds of reporters, without explanation.

Chamorro announced yesterday that Ortega will remain commander of the Army until the contras' disarmament is completed—which is expected on 10 June according to the agreements signed in Managua—and while youths affected by the abrogation of the military conscription are demobilized.

Last night, a group of youths who back the coalition that supports Chamorro was violently dissolved by anti-riot forces in the center of Managua as they shouted slogans demanding Gen. Ortega's removal as the Army commander.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources reported today that U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle and Bernard Aronson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs, warned Chamorro that the decision to maintain Ortega in his post could endanger the promised $300 million in aid.

THE NEW YORK TIMES said yesterday that Aronson criticized Ortega's confirmation because "it could contribute to the sending of weapons to the Salvadoran guerrillas by the Sandinists."

The harshest criticisms were made by the contras, whose leaders refused to lay down their weapons as long as Chamorro does not reconsider her decision and does not make major changes in the Army.

The new government was installed yesterday; however, two Cabinet members appointed in the Construction (Gilberto Cuadra) and Agriculture (Jaime Cuadra) Ministries resigned at the last moment in disagreement with Chamorro's decision to confirm Humberto Ortega.

Radio Says Quayle Supports Choice

PA2604151190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1208 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle said he supports President Violeta Chamorro's decision to keep General Humberto Ortega as chief of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces. Quayle, who said he was impressed by the conciliatory nature of Mrs. Chamorro's 25 April speech, admitted that the measure will, undoubtedly, cause controversy in the country. President Chamorro has announced her decision to have the army under civilian control. Gen. Humberto Ortega can help her and we will support her, Quayle said. The U.S. vice president met with President Chamorro after the swearing in ceremony and later left for Mexico.

Altamirano Sees Virtual UNO Breakup

PA2704011490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2345 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Managua, 26 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The National Opposition Union (UNO), a 14-party coalition that supported the candidacy of Violeta Chamorro in the past elections, was virtually broken up today, announced Eli Altamirano, one of its leaders.

Altamirano, secretary general of the Communist Party of Nicaragua [PCdeN], explained that the UNO Political Council today refused to call a meeting of all the parties and that only eight parties that support the thesis of Vice President Virgilio Godoy, as opposed to those of Chamorro, have been called to meet tomorrow.

The report was confirmed by Jaime Bonilla, UNO leader and vice president of the Independent Liberal Party (PLI) and close associate of Godoy.

Altamirano explained that the decision to call the meeting of eight parties separately is because the other six committed themselves "in an intolerable betrayal that cannot be forgotten" and that these, in fact, are the ones "who have left UNO."

Panama

Endara Announces Reform To Abolish Army

PA2504134790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0245 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] San Jose, 24 Apr (ACAN - EFE)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara announced here tonight that his government will present a constitutional reform to the Legislative Assembly which will establish the "abolition of the Army" in his country.

In brief statements aired this evening on Costa Rican Television Channel 7, while he was en route to Managua via San Jose, the Panamanian president said that in early January 1991 the constitutional reform will be submitted to referendum.

Endara explained that in mid-May the reform of the constitutional article, similar to the one contained in the Costa Rican Constitution, will be presented. "The Republic of Panama will not have an army," the article will read, Endara stated. He said he considers that during the two legislative periods to be held this year the amendment will be approved without any major problem—as established in the constitution. He added that the reform will also be submitted "to public discussion" during the three months prior to the referendum.

Also, he said he hopes that the U.S. economic aid promised to Panama will be approved before his trip to the United States on 29 April, adding that his principal allies in this sense are President George Bush and several U.S. congresmen, who he did not identify.

(It was reported from Washington tonight that the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee today approved economic aid for Panama and Nicaragua worth $720 million, thanks in large part to the votes of its Republican members).

Arias Calderon Discusses Public Force

PA2504171590 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, minister of government and justice, has said that the frequent controversies over the reorganization of the Public Force [FP] involve persons who are interested in weakening the policy of demilitarization and the creation of a National Police [PN] that will offer security.

[Begin recording] [Arias] Nothing is being done behind the people's backs. President Endara's policy on the FP has been amply explained throughout the country. We have carried out an important purge. One hundred percent of the colonels who were on active service on 19 December 1989 are not serving in the PN; 83 percent of the lieutenant colonels are not serving either, and the same goes for 38 percent of the majors, 31 percent of the captains, 19 percent of the lieutenants, and 10 percent of the second lieutenants.

[Unidentified reporter] I would like to know your opinion concerning the situation [kidnapping and murder] of former Colonel Justines' grandson?

[Arias] It is an unspeakable and cruel action. I believe all Panamanians repudiate this action with all their might. One person has been arrested, while others are being investigated. As you will understand, we cannot disclose details while investigations are under way.

I have one hypothesis, not based on the known facts but on previous inicidents. For example, there is the case of Mrs. Simmons [who was kidnapped and released]. Apparently, that case seemed to be related to a conflict among the pro-Noriega groups, that is, the former followers of the dictator. I wonder if there is something similar in this case. Investigations will determine if this is the case.

[Reporter] Father Fernando Guardia charged a few days ago that there were three military factions fighting for power in the FP.

[Arias] I clearly said that apparently he has information I do not have, and that I would gladly receive any such information he may have.

[Reporter] Does this mean that there are still possibilities of a military coup, as Father Guardia has alerted us to?

[Arias] I must point out that Father Guardia clearly said that he thought it was wise of the Government and

Justice Ministry to urge the former militarymen to serve the PN. However, that aspect of his statements has not been emphasized.

I do not believe—nor has Father Guardia suggested—that there are presently any threats of a coup d'etat. We are faced with other situations. We see how the process of demilitarization within public security is advancing, how the PN is being clearly formed, and how security in general is improving— although there are clearly still many criminals at large.

[Reporter] Why has the purge within the FP not reached the directors and deputy directors?

[Arias] Because to our knowledge, there is nothing that calls for that purge. Some of them spent 21 months in jail and were tortured. I wonder if that characteristic is not an additional guarantee that they are identified with forming a PN at the service of democracy, as they themselves suffered under the dictatorship. [end recording].

Assembly Names Ruben Dario Comptroller General

PA2604010090 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Apr 90 pp 1, A-2

[Text] Following his appointment last night, Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles said that he will carry out his duties with straightforwardness, striving to improve the public finances, exercise budget controls, and meet our foreign debt commitments.

Carles was supported by the Legislative Assembly's plenum with 46 votes in favor and the abstention of the seven Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) legislators. During the same session, Jose de Los Santos Chen Barria was officially appointed deputy comptroller general with 48 votes in favor, seven against, and no abstentions.

"My work will be carried out in a straightforward manner. Our role will be to provide guidelines and information and to change many habits and customs acquired more than 25 years ago," Carles stressed.

The new comptroller general paused for a moment during his speech and, with tears in his eyes, recalled that [former President] Arnulfo Arias had told him that when he assumed power, he would appoint him comptroller general. "I cannot fail the memory of Arnulfo Arias," he said.

Meanwhile, Jose de los Santos Chen Barria said that he will work in unity with Carles following the path of reconstruction and reconciliation. He also called for straightening out public finances, eliminating government corruption, paying our foreign debts, and exploring strategies for development to enter the 21st century with "confidence, peace, and a revitalized democracy."

PRD Legislator Mario Rognoni said that Carles and Chen Barria must keep the Assembly informed of their actions. Rognoni wished the new officials good luck in their efforts to build a new fatherland.

PRD Legislator Gerardo Gonzalez praised the new comptroller, but censured the fact that he had assumed the position imposed by a government colonized by the United States. Gonzalez recalled the days when he had struggled with Carles in the National Patriotic Front against U.S. military bases outside the canal.

"Unfortunately, he becomes comptroller general 42 years after Panama stood up to expel U.S. forces from our national territory and from Rio Hato," he stressed.

Authentic Liberal Party Legislator Arnulfo Escalona Rios said that the comptroller and deputy comptroller general are not the result of a struggle for political positions. "For a long time the republic lacked the necessary control, and it became fertile ground for corruption," he stressed.

Legislator Leo Gonzalez backed Carles' nomination, while Legislator Alonso Villarreal backed Chen Barria. During the session, legislators who supported Carles and Chen Barria stressed the honesty and hard-working spirit of the two nominees.

Ruben Dario Carles had been acting comptroller general since December of last year. He has centered his efforts in straightening out public administration and seeking mechanisms to control public expenditures.

Last night the Assembly declared itself in permanent session to approve the nation's budget in the first debate and to present an inquiry to National Bank Manager Luis H. Moreno regarding the management of that banking institution and the new policies that are being implemented to increase the bank's liquidity.

Editorial Calls for Expediting Criminal Trials

PA2604021190 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Apr 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The Country Cannot Go On Like This"]

[Text] Every day, newspapers and television screens present to us the mutual accusations made by a number of military officers involved in various crimes being cleared up in the courts, but no significant progress has been made in establishing responsibility.

Our obsolete judicial system makes it possible for a large number of criminal cases to be postponed. This creates unrest in the Panamanian people, who consider it a mockery and an insult to our intelligence that notorious figures of the previous regime have declared, with the greatest cynicism, that they had nothing to do with the nation's political and economic deterioration.

We want to stress again that we must stop being overindulgent to the accused individuals, because this prevents them from accounting for their actions. During the years of tyranny, the so-called changes of trenches allowed

ministers and directors of autonomous institutions to be appointed to other positions so they could go on sucking from the governmental udder, so to speak, once they were reshuffled. To a large or a small extent, all of them are to blame for the country's economic disaster. Their evident culpability must be punished. In addition, the consuls and other diplomats who stole the country's money must be called to account immediately because the country cannot withstand any more delays in this area. Each day that passes without punishing those who stole money from the Social Security Fund's collective housing project, the Van Dam bridge project, the Cerro Colorado copper bed, the state-owned sugarcane mills, as well as those who stole millions from the Defense Forces, and Cofina [National Finance Corporation], etc., feeds the people's frustration and hopelessness.

We Panamanians are getting tired of this word game. All of a sudden, birds have begun to shoot at shotguns when honest people who have filed suits are themselves called to testify at prosecutors' and magistrate's offices. Odd as it may seem, it is the notorious individuals reported who support these countermoves. In addition, the military is paradoxically being tried with laws from the time of Noriega only because many of these laws are still in force. This is perhaps what has permitted the indicted men to delay the legal processes even more.

The "angelical innocence and naivete" situation regarding the accused men has gone so far that the people, tired of fallacious arguments, are preparing a movement to altogether purge the Public Force and put an end to the mutual accusations of the military. There are many unemployed in Panama. We think that young officers, graduated from prestigious military academies, could be appointed to the posts that the officers devoted to the tyranny dishonored.

The authorities must put an end to this situation. The people thirst for justice. It is necessary to end the disorder in which, although thousands have been reported, only a few are being tried. Those who ruined this nation cannot remain unpunished. We cannot overlook the financial scandals simply because we are going to receive a large amount of foreign aid.

The time to act and make decisions is at hand. It is time to abrogate the laws approved by the Noriega regime. We must become serious and call to account all those responsible for the ruin of Panama. No exceptions. The present government is supported by this people and cannot disappoint them. So let us put an end to this situation in which trials are being delayed in the legal tangle, thus favoring the accused.

Argentina

Defense Minister Says Condor II Project Halted

PY2604233090 Buenos Aire CLARIN in Spanish 22 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Defense Minister Humberto Romero has stated that the Condor II project was halted [paralizado] due to a political decision and a lack of funds, but he reiterated that the development of the missile "was not a danger to anyone."

This is the first official announcement of the halting of the project, which has caused international comment and a spate of political and diplomatic pressure against our country.

The Condor project was implemented by the Air Force to develop a rocket with a range of 700 km to place satellites in orbit.

From the start it was stressed abroad that the rocket was being developed jointly with Iraq and that the latter was going to use it to substantially alter the military balance in the Middle East.

The United States repeatedly expressed its concern to Argentina about the manufacture of this medium-range rocket, but the Argentine Government always insisted that the project was of a peaceful nature.

In his chat with journalists, Romero stressed that "the Condor II project has been halted. It is being discontinued because of a political decision and because we do not have the funds to finance an initiative of this nature. We wish to calm everyone concerned by assuring them that the project has definitively been halted, frozen. In view of reports that have appeared in the press, we have also stated that the development of the project did not mean any type of risk or danger for anyone."

During the past few days the topic of this rocket, which is manufactured in our country [as published], has been the object of commentaries in the international press because of the warlike attitude of Saddam Husayn's Iraqi government toward Israel.

On the other hand, the industrialized countries agreed in Vancouver in April 1987 not to give funds or technology to third nations for the development of medium-range missiles. The agreement was signed by the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, Canada, and Japan.

Comments on 'Concern' Over Project

PY2704024490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0137 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr (TELAM)—Defense Minister Humberto Romero has stressed that "we can be sure that as countries begin to understand that the technological development of the Argentine rocket industry is for peaceful purposes, there will be no problems regarding Condor II."

Romero reiterated that "this project has been deactivated for economic reasons." He acknowledged the concern that it has generated and said that it will continue "until other countries fully understand the project and realize that they need not be concerned about it."

Romero made these remarks to a group of reporters [words indistinct] at his ministry, where he maintained that "we will try to progress in everything that involves technological development so we will not lose the pace that we have achieved in this race."

He added that "the concern that has emerged in various sectors due the bad reports that have circulated, and we cannot determine their origin, have generated a certain type of concern." [paragraph as received]

He stated that our country "seeks peace and good international relations," and he gave as an example "the development of nuclear energy technology." He stressed: "Argentina is well ahead in high technology. It [words indistinct] numerous nuclear reactors, and there have been absolutely no problems."

He revealed that Brazil is carrying out a "satellite program based on rockets of a similar technology," and he said that "in everything that pertains to technological development, we will try to implement it at the same pace so as not to fall behind."

News 'Well-Received' in London

PY2604202290 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 25 Apr 90 p 8

[Text] London (EFE)—British official sources told EFE that the Argentine decision to suspend the Condor II missile project, which was being developed with Egypt and Iraq since 1984, was "well received" in London.

The sources said that "any initiative to reduce the development of this type of technology" is positive, referring to the decision to freeze the project, as announced by Argentine Defense Minister Humberto Romero on 21 April in Buenos Aires.

Romero said that the project will not continue because of a lack of resources and because "of a political decision."

Iraq, which has chemical weapons and is believed to be able to make nuclear weapons, two weeks ago warned that it is capable of inflicting great destruction on Israel.

If the Condor II missile is made, it will have a range of 800 km, enabling Iraq to hit Tel Aviv, Tehran, or Istanbul.

Congress Creates New Province; Includes Falklands

PY2604142590 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0932 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr (TELAM)—After a long political debate between Justicialist and Radical Civic

Union lawmakers, the Chamber of Deputies early this morning created the Tierra del Fuego Province, which includes the Malvinas Islands.

The resolution, which was approved by 106 votes to 91, was modified by the Senate to include the Malvinas Islands and the other southern territories. The proposal was sponsored by the Justicialist bloc of the House.

After almost nine hours of speeches, some 50 Tierra del Fuego representatives loudly voiced their satisfaction over the decision to turn the last national territory into a province. The hall was packed with 200 lawmakers from all parties.

The Justicialist Party decided to support the creation of the new province, which includes the Malvinas islands, despite "suggestions" from Foreign Ministry officials that "friction" with Great Britain over the recent diplomatic negotiations be avoided.

However, Justicialist Deputy Jorge Yoma, who chairs the Constitutional Affairs Committee of the House, stressed that the issue was analyzed "before the deadline for its consideration by Congress," taking into account that the congressional period of sessions ends on 30 April.

Jose Luis Manzano, who heads the Justicialist Party bloc in the House, publicly admitted during the debate that the approval of the law will cause some problems, however, he called on Argentine diplomats "to continue working" to overcome such problems.

The Radical Civic Union made it clear that it does not oppose the creation of the Tierra del Fuego Province, but it opposed the inclusion of the Malvinas Islands. This is the position that the party endorsed under the previous administration.

Democratic Centrist Union lawmakers also rejected the ruling party proposal, with the exception of Alberto Albamonte. Representatives of the Intransigent Party, the Popular Socialist Party, and the provincial parties voted for the approval of the initiative.

President Menem Comments

PY2604184190 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Report by Silvia Martinez Porta from Government House]

[Excerpts] Today, President Carlos Menem had breakfast with the women journalists accredited to Government House. Seven of us breakfasted with him for an hour. [passage omitted]

President Menem was annoyed by the appearance of street posters accusing Justicialist officials and congressmen—namely Eduardo Bauza, Jose Luis Manzano, Eduardo Menem, and Roberto Dromi—of being corrupt. He said many people were arrested in connection with this case, but he did not say how many. He said the investigation will continue until the case is completely cleared up and that any official involved in this case will be immediately fired. [passage omitted]

Regarding the creation of the Tierra del Fuego Province, which includes the Malvinas Islands, the president said the law will not create problems for the sovereignty talks. He said diplomatic talks will continue. He stated that the decision to turn Tierra del Fuego into a province is precisely one way of discussing sovereignty. The inclusion of the islands signifies a reaffirmation of our ownership. [passage omitted]

Briefly discussing the Argentine economic situation, Menem repeated some figures: As of 24 April—that is, as of two days ago—inflation stood at 9 percent. We will have taken a major step if we can keep inflation at 15 percent for this month. In this regard, Menem was visibly satisfied with our economic achievements.

Cavallo Meets Baker, Discusses Bush Visit

PY2604200090 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has stated that the Argentine Government trusts the visit of U.S. President George Bush to Argentina in September will help lay the groundwork for renewed U.S. investment in our country. Cavallo met yesterday in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, with whom he discussed issues related to the renegotiation of the Argentine foreign debt, the possibilities of obtaining aid from international multilateral credit organizations, and Bush's visit to Argentina during the second week of September.

In the next few hours, Cavallo will begin a two-day official visit to Colombia in response to an invitation from President Virgilio Barco.

Supreme Court Elects Levene New Chief Justice

PY2604192190 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Excerpt] In its first decision, the justices of the Supreme Court today elected Ricardo Levene, Jr. as the new chief justice and Mariano Cavagna Martinez as deputy chief justice. The meeting was attended by eight of the nine justices. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Minister Kempff on President's Agenda in Belgium

PY2604160290 La Paz Television Boliviana in Spanish 0030 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Information Minister Manfredo Kempff Suarez has given details of the activities of president of the Republic Jaime Paz Zamora in Spain [as heard]. He specifically referred to the meetings that the president

held with Belgian authorities and the signing of a mutual investment protection agreement.

Minister Kempff announced tomorrow the president will meet with EC representatives.

[Begin Kempff recording] The president traveled to Brussels this morning where he met with King Baudouin of Belgium. At noon the president had lunch with Belgian businessmen. As he did in Spain, the president explained to them the position of the Bolivian Government, its objectives, and its plans for investments.

At 1700 the president held a working meeting with the Belgian prime minister, Mr. Martens. The Bolivian and Belgian foreign ministers signed a mutual investment protection agreement that foresees protecting future Belgian investments in Bolivia.

We are aware that Belgium is among the countries that are giving the greatest economic cooperation to Bolivia. Belgium has always given very important economic cooperation to Bolivia.... [end recording, in progress]

Government, Union Comment on General Strike

PY2704025690 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The government today labeled the first day of the general indefinite strike organized by the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] a failure by organized labor, while COB sources admitted that the strike was only partial.

Labor Under Secretary Eusebio Gironda asserted that from the government's point of view the large productive sectors do not seem to be supporting the strike because it is a political issue and unpopular.

Gironda said that according to what ministry officials were able to observe, until noon today between 80 to 90 percent of the productive sectors were working normally. He said that the only ones on strike were airport employees; the universities, who are always the first to go on strike; and the teachers, who have been on strike since last week, demanding better salaries. [passage omitted]

According to preliminary reports, the COB has admitted that the indefinite general strike is only being partially observed. [passage omitted]

According to the COB, the universities, construction sector, public schools, mining sector, and some factories have observed the strike. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco Rivera has stated that despite the indefinite general strike ordered as of 0000 on 26 April by the COB; economic, productive, social, and institutional activities are developing normally.

The minister read a report reflecting the level of activities of the various sectors. He said that 100 percent of the oil and railway workers, 60 percent of the state-owned mine workers; 100 percent of the national telecommunications enterprise, public transporation, banking sector, national highway service, and construction sector; and 90 percent of the factory workers are working normally. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Collor Frees Funds for Capital Goods Firms

PY2604190590 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1610 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] President Fernando Collor today announced the release of BNDES [National Bank of Economic and Social Development] funds to finance capital goods firms. The president authorized the conversion of funds equivalent to $2 billion into cruzeiros.

President Fernando Collor arrived at the Planalto Palace this morning shortly before 0900. His first step was to call Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Melo and BNDES President Eduardo Modiano for a meeting.

At 1030, President Fernando Collor announced the fourth and last opening of the economic tap, a tap that converts cruzados into cruzeiros. The president of the Republic released $2 billion, about 100 million cruzeiros, for the BNDES to loan to the capital goods industries. With this money, the BNDES again becomes the main source of financing for Brazilian industry.

[Begin Collor recording] With the signing of the appropriate decree by the economy minister today, the BNDES, which is an extremely important tool in the formulation of the country's development policy, again finances the capital goods industries.

These funds, totaling $2 billion, are meant to reactivate investments in this area, which is also very important to the Brazilian economy. They are also meant to finally achieve, in a harmonious way with all sectors, our objective of economic growth. [end recording]

The government will now turn its attention to the budget and to the reduction of the public deficit. Incidentally, the reduction of the public deficit will also begin with the reduction of the size of the state. Following congressional approval, the government will now effectively begin the privatization of federal enterprises. President Fernando Collor, however, specifically said he will do this with care and prudence and that he will listen to all segments of society in order to implement this task, beginning with the trade unions.

Economy Minister Discusses Inflation, Prices

PY2604145390 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0225 GMT 26 Apr 90

["Exclusive" interview with Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello by Lillian Witte Fibe in Brasilia on 25 April—live or recorded]

[Text] [Witte Fibe] If the economists understood it, many people did not yet understand the polemics over inflation indexes. Because of the differences in calculation methods, some indexes project inflation of 20 or 30 percent for April, and others project zero inflation.

Minister, I would like you to explain what are the criteria used for the inflation index chosen by the government. Does it exclude all the increases in public prices that were authorized after 15 March?

[Cardoso de Mello] It is not a matter of excluding anything, absolutely not. The thing is, and we have emphasized this point, that all the indexes are there for everyone to see. We have not eliminated any index nor did we modify any of the indexes in a way to suit our purposes. We think there is a need to break with the past. So, in the context of these transformations, we opted for using a new index that will measure inflation from day 1 to day 30 of the month, a different index from those that have been used.

This index shows, by all the indications we have, that inflation should be about zero for April. This is what prompted us to make that announcement about an expected zero inflation for April. The problem is that some people end up comparing different things and making projections on that basis. An index that compares the average of the first week of April against the first three weeks of March was used to project an inflation rate of 20-odd percent. This index is quite different from the usual inflation indexes and gives a figure whose projection is not justified.

So, all the indexes are there for everyone to see, and the only difference is that our index will capture the inflation between 1 and 30 April, between 1 and 30 May, and so forth.

[Witte Fibe] Ah, then the last 15 days of March will not be included in your index?

[Cardoso de Mello] They are not included, because our index runs from the beginning to the end of the month. The index to be presented to the public by the IBGE before 10 May, which refers to the April inflation rate, will show inflation within the month of April alone.

[Witte Fibe] But the steep increase in utility rates is out?

[Cardoso de Mello] Our index will compare prices on 30 April with prices on 1 April.

[Witte Fibe] When do you intend to release prices?

[Cardoso de Mello] Look, we are studying all indicators which show that the price release will reduce inflation in some products even more. In other products, we see the need for control. The FIPE [Economic Research Foundation Institute] index that was published yesterday shows this in a very noticeable way. Some products had a large deflation, a real price decline. Other products, products that are more difficult to control, not products as such but personal services, had a small increase. So we are studying all these items, and we will do this at any time in the way we judge more appropriate. However, I would like to make it clear that in the Brazilian economy's present condition we believe we are already in a position to make those studies regarding the release of prices.

[Witte Fibe] What type of policy will you follow now regarding interest rates? Will interest rates be high to restrain consumption or will they be low to reduce financial costs and, consequently, final prices?

[Cardoso de Mello] It will ultimately be a combination of both. In fact, this combination will depend on how inflation is doing as well as on our specific needs in terms of monetary policy and resources.

[Witte Fibe] Did you take into account the drop in tax revenues caused by recession in calculating your public deficit estimate for this year?

[Cardoso de Mello] I believe revenues will not drop because of recession simply because there is no recession. What we are experiencing is just a natural economic adjustment process because our plan had a different impact on the various economic sectors. By 19 March, there were already some sectors with a large amount of cruzeiros while others had none. Thus, the plan had a different impact on retail sectors, being closer to consumers, than on sectors having no ties with consumers. As time goes by and the production cycle returns to normal, those sectors that were hardest hit will be earning cruzeiros. Thus, the impression that there is a recession is in fact just an impression. What we are experiencing is an adjustment of the economy to two things. First, the plan affected various sectors differently. Second, various sectors have different production cycles and, therefore, they follow a different timetable.

What we are actually doing is creating mechanisms similar to those we created for the civil engineering, construction, and automobile sectors. We will do the same regarding capital assets to give those hardest hit sectors, which are ostensibly experiencing a period of recession, the resources they need to go through this adjustment period until their activities return to normal.

[Witte Fibe] Are you taking any measures to release funds belonging to senior citizens?

[Cardoso de Mello] I signed a decree authorizing the conversion of cruzados into cruzeiros for senior citizens, for people over 65.

[Witte Fibe] These people do not have to be retired, right?

[Cardoso de Mello] Yes, although people are generally retired at that age, but they must be exempted from income tax. In sum, there are many cases. We have received many requests to this effect and we believe this will be a highly beneficial measure for a large sector of the population. Thus, we are taking that action today. We had already authorized the conversion of cruzados

into cruzeiros for funds stemming from termination of contracts for those who have been unemployed since 15 February. We are now extending this benefit for those who have been unemployed since 15 December 1989.

[Witte Fibe] Does this mean that those who are unemployed will be able to withdraw those cruzeiros stemming from the termination of their labor contracts. Will they have to prove that the money was earned that way.?

[Cardoso de Mello] Yes, that is correct.

[Witte Fibe] In the case of senior citizens, what is the difference between this measure and the one that was already in force concerning those exempted from paying income tax?

[Cardoso de Mello] The difference is that we are extending this benefit to all types of accounts....

[Witte Fibe, interrupting] That is, not only to savings accounts?

[Cardoso de Mello] That's right.

[Witte Fibe] It will also include current accounts, short term deposits, or the overnight.

[Cardoso de Mello] That's right. There are also cases of people who are not retired. Those senior citizens who are not collecting a retirement check, and who are not paying income tax. These people will thus be allowed to use their money. That is the difference.

[Witte Fibe] Will withdrawals be restricted?

[Cardoso de Mello] There will be a ceiling for monthly withdrawals.

[Witte Fibe] There will be a monthly ceiling for these people. Thank you.

21 Military Officers To Join UN Observer Team

PY2604124190 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Report by Gustavo Mariani]

[Text] Itamaraty has confirmed that 21 Brazilian military officers will join a UN observer team to promote a cease-fire in countries like Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

The Brazilian officers will go to Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, where they will receive their assignment. The peacekeeping force will also include Venezuelans, Spaniards, Germans, and Colombians. According to Itamaraty, the Brazilian officers will serve for one year in the peacekeeping force, but they may extend the tour if necessary.

An invitation to participate in this force was extended to President Fernando Collor de Mello by the United Nations. The Brazilian Foreign Ministry regarded the invitation as recognition of the credibility earned by Brazil both in the region and within multilateral organizations. It is also a recognition of the professionalism demonstrated by members of the Brazilian Armed Forces in other peace missions, like the one in Angola, just to cite the most recent example.

* Navy To Develop Plant Project With IPEN

90WP0063Z Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 Mar 90 p 19

[Article by Fanny Zygband]

[Text] Sao Paulo—The first Brazilian nuclear plant, constructed solely with domestic technology, is being planned by the Navy and the Institute for Nuclear and Energy Research (IPEN), one of the principal research centers of the National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN). The plant is expected to start up within 8 to 10 years and, according to scientists associated with the Brazilian Nuclear Program, its technology is at least 20 years ahead of Angra I, II, and III which are considered out-of-date.

According to Rear Admiral Othon Pinheiro da Silva, chairman of the Coordinating Committee of the Navy's Special Projects (COPESP)—the institution's right arm in the nuclear sector—the project of the Brazilian nuclear plant is based on a concept which is being simultaneously developed by a number of countries which control nuclear technology, such as the United States, Canada, England, France, and Japan and will assure Brazil access to the select club of manufacturers of atomic plants.

The concept of reactors and plants in the 1990's has greatly changed and seeks to satisfy three basic requirements: safety, economy, and facility of operation, which means using the least number of operators running the plant.

The rear admiral believes that the Navy's pursuance of the path of energy generation is a "natural development" of the competency acquired in developing the Renap 1, the prototype of the reactor used in the propulsion of submarines which is in an advanced stage of construction at the Aramar Experimental Center maintained by the Navy in Ipero, in the interior of Sao Paulo. In his opinion, the nuclear submarine is already a funded project and the Navy's role is now that of building reactors.

The principal innovation incorporated in the atomic plant project which the Navy is developing in conjunction with the IPEN is the cluster system—or group of plants—which foresees the construction of plants in modules, each one containing a reactor and a complete energy-generating system. The modules can be aligned in a parallel manner—for a total of at least five—commensurate with the energy demand of the area in which the plant is to be installed. According to Gilberto Gomes de Andrade, head of COPESP's Department of

Nuclear Systems, practically speaking, the system makes it possible to build facilities smaller than those of Angra (the Angra II is said to have a capacity of 1,200 megawatts) and with a more rational and economical generation of energy.

"The cluster makes it possible to mount lines with variable power capacities, from 100 to 600 megawatts per module. That of 100 megawatts would be compatible with the electrical networks of the north and northeast while that of the southeast would require powerful reactors whose energy supply and demand would increase proportionately," he said.

Cluster System Permits Cheaper Operation

Although the Navy and IPEN have not yet estimated the cost of the plant, it is calculated that the cluster system will be at least 40 percent cheaper than the model adopted in Angra. Gilberto Gomes de Andrade, head of COPESP's Department of Nuclear Systems, explained that this is due in part to the fact that some sectors of the plant's infrastructures can be used to control the various reactors. To get an idea, in Angra the plants were perfected to the point where they functioned as autonomous units and this, according to the technician, makes their operation much more expensive.

According to Rear Admiral Othon Pinheiro da Silva, the safety concept adopted as a necessary prerequisite of the Brazilian plant is on a par with that of advanced reactors. Renap 2, the prototype of a reactor for generating 100 megawatts of power, is now being developed by the COPESP and IPEN engineers. It will serve as a sort of guinea pig for tests and will further serve as a safety model—known as a passive safety system—which developed countries are inclined to consider a favorable adjunct for the 1990's. This type of reactor differs from that of Angra, especially in the treatment it gives to the energy which it releases from the reactor after the plant has been shut down. Instead of using pumps and piping to dissipate that energy, it employs the plant's own water-circulation system.

"Every atomic plant continues to generate energy, about 2 percent of its power, even after being shut down. That heat is dangerous, for it can accumulate, building up pressure and causing an accident. Using the natural circulation of water is safer because it precludes the use of equipment which, although tested, is subject to defects," he observed.

Andrade goes on to say that in striving to obtain greater safety in atomic plants, the world's most modern reactors—including the one now being designed—are attempting to reduce the number of maintenance and component systems to a minimum and change the plant's manual operation to one of automation. In addition to exposing less people to radiation, this would reduce the possibility of mishaps.

The rear admiral asserts that Brazilian industry is fully capable of producing reactors with the necessary specifications for the production of energy and still provide the plant itself with all necessary safety precautions. The plan being studied by the Navy and IPEN—one which should take precedence in the Brazilian system—is that of constructing prefabricated power plants. The concept is that each module of the cluster will have a solid concrete base, a kind of platform on which the principal components of the plant are to be mounted: the reactor, steam generator, pressurizer, and refrigeration equipment.

According to Rear Admiral Othon Pinheiro da Silva, the process in question has two advantages: being a single block, it avoids dangerous dislocations among the components in case of seismic tremors. And it also reduces the time spent in building the plant. Instead of taking 7 or 8 years to complete the installation—the world average in general—the plant can be under way in only 4.

Technology for Fuel Production in 1 Year

The image of a Ferrari operating with a Volkswagen motor, used by scientists of the Brazilian Nuclear Program to indicate that the lack of funds has acted as a brake on the technological potential of the nuclear area, will aptly portray what the nuclear sector will be facing during the first year of the Collor administration. But once that period of difficulties has ended, the Navy and National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN) will speed up the measures they have been taking to strengthen the country's technology in the production of nuclear fuel on an industrial scale and thereby supply its atomic plants.

According to Rear Admiral Othon Pinheiro da Silva, chairman of the Coordinating Committee for the Navy's Special Projects (COPESP), 1991 will be a decisive year for releasing many of the low-key projects which will be maintained throughout the year. That is the case of three small demonstration plants—the stage immediately prior to production on an industrial scale—which will be built at the Aramar Experimental Center, maintained by the Navy in Ipero, in the interior of Sao Paulo.

One of the plants will be designed to convert yellow cake (concentrated uranium paste) into hexafluorite uranium gas, one of the raw materials used in replenishing the ultracentrifuges which enrich the uranium. This stage in the cycle of nuclear fuel is currently being developed on a laboratory scale at the Institute for Nuclear and Energy Research (IPEN). According to the rear admiral's calculation, the miniplant will take about 2 and ½ years to complete and put into operation.

According to him, January of this year will also see the initial construction of a demonstration miniplant for the enriching of uranium, the last stage in the fuel cycle. It is expected to be completed in 1993. The third will be a plant for the reconversion of enriched hexafluorite uranium gas, which leaves the ultracentrifuges in the form

of uranium dioxide. The dioxide is used in the manufacture of tablets which will form the fuel element and, in turn, fuel the reactors.

The rear admiral estimates that in 4 years the technology for initiating the industrial production of nuclear fuel will be fully completed.

* Data Folha Poll on Gubernatorial Frontrunners

90SM0022A Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Mar 90 p 7

[Article by Joao Batista Natali: "Poll Says Covas, Maluf Favorites"]

[Text] If the first round in the election of the successor to the governor of Sao Paulo were held today, Mario Covas (PSDB [Brazilian Social Democratic Party]) would easily lead in the voting, with Paulo Maluf (PDS [Social Democratic Party]) as his opponent in the decisive round. This is one of the conclusions derived from the first poll on voting intentions taken last 5 March by DataFolha, in which 8,250 voters in 150 municipalities in the interior and in the metropolitan regions in nine states were interviewed.

The four different situations postulated for the 1,230 individuals questioned in Sao Paulo revealed that Covas has not lost votes because of his support for Luis Inacio Lula da Silva (PT [Workers Party]) in the second round of the presidential election. Although he has reconfirmed that he does not want to be the Toucan candidate, he retains first place, with a minimum of 37 percent and a maximum of 46 percent of the voting intentions for the elimination round scheduled for 3 October.

Maluf remains in second place in all four situations offered to the voters, winning voting support ranging from 25 percent to 34 percent. Both he and Covas lose given the hypotheses in which the candidates include Silvio Santos (no party affiliation) and Janio Quadros (PFL [Liberal Front Party]). However, they do not because of this pose any real threat to the two frontrunners. Janio Quadros has between 5 and 6 percent of the votes, and Santos between 14 percent and 17 percent.

Another aspect revealed in Sao Paulo is the electoral weakness of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party]. It obtained its best results with Vice Governor Almino Affonso, and even so the share won was only 4 percent. With Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho, the choice of Governor Orestes Quercia, only 1 percent was obtained.

The vote for the virtually certain candidate of the PT, Plinio de Arruda Sampaio, is equally laughable. He would have between 2 and 3 percent of the votes. Guilherme Afif, if he were to be the PL [Liberal Party] candidate, would have between 6 and 7 percent.

In Rio Grande do Sul, the transfer of Brizola's prestige is not a constant factor, assuming the various hypotheses. If the PDT [Democratic Workers Party] were to nominate Alceu Collares, he would come in first, with between 21 percent and 23 percent. If the candidate were to be Carrion Junior, the party would rank fifth and would not reach the final round. Without Collares, the favorite is Sergio Zambiasi (PTB [Brazilian Labor Party]). Nelson Marchezan (PDS) came in third, with of the four situations postulated, and first, assuming the other.

The situation of Senator Jose Richa (PSDB) in Parana is a tranquil one for the time being. He would have Jaime Lerner (PDT) as a competitor in the second round, or another former prefect of Curitiba, Roberto Requiao, should that be the PMDB choice. Jose Carlos Martinez (PRN [National Reconstruction Party]) alternates between third and fourth place.

The picture in Minas Gerais is more fluid. Helio Garcia (PMDB) leads in voting intentions, followed by Pimenta da Veiga (PSDB), the prefect of Belo Horizonte. But if the PMDB were to nominate Senator Ronal Tito, Pimenta would win, having the vice governor, Junia Marise (PRN), as his opponent in the second round.

Virgilio Guimaraes, who commands between 10 and 12 percent of the votes, is for the time being the best choice of the PT. If Nilmario Miranda, of the PT, were the candidate, he would win 3 percent of the votes.

Senator Mauricio Correa (PDT) leads in the voting intentions for the first direct election of the governor of the Federal District. He would be competing in the second round with Valmir Campelo (PTB), and those disqualified, in order, would be Lauro Campos (PT), Mucio Ataide (no party affiliation), Carlos Alberto (PCB [Brazilian Communist Party]), and Signaringa Seixas (PSDB). On the basis of spontaneous answers volunteered, Minister of Agriculture Joaquim Roriz would be the winner in the first round, with 50 percent of the votes.

The situation in which the percentages are the closest is that in Bahia. Roberto Santos would win first place for the PMDB. If Marcos Medrado were nominated by the party, he would come in fourth, and with fewer than 10 percent of the votes. Without Roberto Santos, first place would go to the former prefect of Salvador, Mario Kertesz (no party affiliation). In all four situations, Luis Pedro Irujo (PRN) would come in second. With votes ranging between 2 and 12 percent, those out of the running, in order, would be Lomanto Junior (PFL), Joaci Goes (PSDB), Jose Lourenco (PDS), and Domingos Leonelli (PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party]).

In Pernambuco, in the Northeast, a broad advantage is seen for the prefect of Recife, Joaquim Francisco (PFL), with 48 percent of the voting intentions. Only if he did not run as a candidate could Jarbas Vasconcelos (PMDB) hope to come in first, and this might also allow Jose Queiroz (PDT) to move from third to second place.

If Governor Tasso Jereissati's PSDB nominates Ciro Gomes in Ceara, first place seems certain for him for the time being. Adauto Bezerra (PFL) would be second, and he would only win first place if the Toucans nominated Sergio Machado. Lucio Alcantara (PDT) would rank third, given certain hypotheses, and fourth, given others. The president of the Chamber of Deputies, Paes de Andrade (PMDB), could only hope to reach the final round if he did not have to run gainst Gomes.

Polling Method

The electoral poll taken by DataFolha was based on a stratified sampling. The municipalities (150) were classified on the basis of geographic location and socioeconomic level. The poll, taken on 5 March, involved interviews with 8,250 voters—1,230 in Sao Paulo, 750 in Rio, 1,095 in Minas Gerais, 940 in Parana, 895 in Rio Grande do Sul, 955 in Bahia, 830 in Pernambuco, 860 in Ceara, and 685 in the Federal District. The margin of error was 3 percent for Sao Paulo and 4 percent for the other states.

The poll was taken by DataFolha under the direction of sociologist Antonio Manuel Teixeira Mendes. He was assisted in the planning and analysis by sociologists Gustavo Venturi, Emilia de Franco, and Mauro Francisco Paulino. Field coordination was supervised by Arthur Kieling Neto, Paulo Carolina M. Soto, Idonilda Alves Bezerra, and Wilson Aghanatios Chammas. The processing of the data was the responsibility of statistician Otavio Alberto B. Tafner.

Brizola First-Round Winner

If he were to run as the PDT candidate, Leonel Brizola would spare Rio de Janeiro the need for a second round in the state gubernatorial election, because he would win an absolute majority of the votes on the first round. In the situations postulated by DataFolha, he was designated in between 55 percent and 59 percent of the voting intentions.

Of the nine states covered in this first national poll, Rio is also the only one in which the PT seems well-situated. But Jorge Bittar, that party's candidate, would come in second, and he would not go on to the second round if he ran against Brizola. Without the former governor in the race, he would come in first (22 percent), and would compete against Cesar Maia in the final round.

Collor's Support Decisive

At least 25 percent of the voters—those in Sao Paulo—indicated in this first poll that they might vote for the gubernatorial candidate supported by President Collor. In Rio, 28 percent would heed this recommendation, while the figure for Rio Grade do Sul is 27 percent, and so on successively, up to the level of 40 percent for the voters in Bahia and 43 percent for those in Ceara.

This transfer of prestige works the other way where two governors are involved. In Rio, 37 percent would not vote for a candidate supported by Moreira Franco, while in Minas Gerais, the same is true for 35 percent of the voters with regard to a candidate having the support of Newton Cardoso.

The First Gubernatorial Poll

Sao Paulo

If the gubernatorial election were held today and the candidates were as follows, for whom would you vote?

(Suggested Responses)

Candidate	Percent	Candidate	Percent
Mario Covas (PSDB)	46	Mario Covas	37
Paulo Maluf (PDS)	34	Paulo Maluf (PDS)	25
Guilherme Afif Domingos (PL)	7	Silvio Santos (no party affiliation)	17
Plinio de Arruda Sampaio (PT)	2	Guilherme Afif Domingos (PL)	6
Luis Antonio Fleury (PMDB)	2	Janio Quadros (PFL)	6
None	7	Plinio de Arruda Sampaio (PT)	2
Don't know	2	Luis Antonio Fleur y (PMDB)	1
Total	100	None	5
		Don't know	1
		Total	100

Next 3 October, state gubernatorial elections will be held. For whom would you choose to vote for governor?

(Volunteered Responses)

Candidate	Percent
Paulo Maluf	14
Mario Covas	11
Antonio Ermirio de Moraes	3
Luis Inacio Lula da Silva	2
Silvio Santos	2
Janio Quadros	1
Franco Montoro	1
Joao Oswaldo Leiva	1
Guilherme Afif Domingos	1
No one	4
Don't know	49
Others*	11
Total	100

*Including the present governor, Orestes Quercia (5 percent), who is ineligible.

Rio de Janeiro

(Suggested Responses)		(Volunteered Responses)	
Candidate	Percent	Candidate	Percent
Leonel Brizola (PDT)	59	Leonel Brizola	35
Jorge Bittar (PT)	12	Jorge Bittar	3
Hydeckel de Freitas (PRN)	6	Cesar Maia	2
Francisco Dornelles (PFL)	5	Luis Inacio Lula da Silva	2
Marcio Fortes (PMDB)	5	Alvaro Vale	1
None	10	Hydeckel de Freitas	1
Don't know	3	Marcio Fortes	1
Total	100	No one	5
		Don't know	41
		Others*	9
		Total	100

*Including the current governor, Moreira Franco (3 percent), who is ineligible.

Minas Gerais

(Suggested Responses)		(Volunteered Responses)	
Candidate	Percent	Candidate	Percent
Helio Garcia (PMDB)	28	Helio Garcia	7
Pimenta da Veiga (PSDB)	26	Pimenta da Veiga	5
Junia Marise (PRN)	12	Helio Costa	2
Virgilio Guimaraes (PT)	10	Junia Marise	1
Oscar Correa Junior (PFL)	3	Virgilio Guimaraes	1
None	8	Aureliano Chaves	1
Don't know	13	No one	2
Total	100	Don't know	68
		Others*	13
		Total	100

*Including the present governor, Newton Cardoso (2 percent), President Collor (2 percent), and the vice president, Itamar Franco (2 percent), all of whom are ineligible.

Rio Grande do Sul

(Suggested Responses)		(Volunteered Responses)	
Candidate	Percent	Candidate	Percent
Alceu Collares (PDT)	23	Leonel Brizola	8
Sergio Zambiasi (PTB)	20	Alceu Collares	6
Nelson Marchezan (PDS)	16	Nelson Marchezan	4
Jose Fogaca (PMDB)	14	Sergio Zambiasi	2
Jose Paulo Bisol (PSB)	10	Jose Fogaca	1
Tarso Genro (PT)	4	Mendes Ribeiro	1
None	9	Sinval Guazelli	1
Don't know	100	Jose Paulo Bisol	1
Total		Luis Inacio Lula da Silva	1
		Tarso Genro	1
		No one	6
		Don't know	58
		Others*	10
		Total	100

*Including the present governor, Pedro Simon (5 percent), who is ineligible.

Parana

(Suggested Responses)		(Volunteered Responses)	
Candidate	Percent	Candidate	Percent
Jose Richa (PSDB)	27	Jaime Lerner	4
Roberto Requiao (PMDB)	18	Roberto Requiao	3
Jaime Lerner (PDT)	17	Jose Richa	3
Jose Carlos Martinez (PRN)	13	Jose Carlos Martinez	3
Luis Carlos Borges da Silveira (no party affiliation)	2	Rubens Bueno	2
Alceni Guerra* (PFL)	1	Luis Carlos Alborgheti	1
Gil Carvalho (PT)	1	Jaime Canet Junior	1
Jose Eduardo de Andrade Vieira (no party affiliation)	1	No one	3
None	13	Don't know	64
Don't know	7	Others**	16
Total	100	Total	100

*The minister of health, who is not running in the gubernatorial election.

**Including the present governor, Alvaro Dias (8 percent), who is ineligible.

Ceara

(Suggested Responses)		(Volunteered Responses)	
Candidate	Percent	Candidate	Percent
Ciro Gomes (PSDB)	39	Ciro Gomes	10
Adauto Bezerra (PFL)	21	Adauto Bezerra	4
Paes de Andrade (PMDB)	11	Lucio Alcantara	3
Lucio Alcantara (PDT)	10	Paes de Andrade	2
Mario Mamede (PT)	4	Luiz Gonzaga Mota	1
Aecio de Borba (PDS)	4	No one	3
None	4	Don't know	63
Don't know	7	Others	14
Total	100	Total	100

*Including the present governor, Tasso Jereissati (5 percent), and President Collor (1 percent), both ineligible.

Pernambuco

(Suggested Responses)		(Volunteered Responses)	
Candidate	Percent	Candidate	Percent
Joaquim Francisco (PFL)	48	Joaquim Francisco	22
Jarbas Vasconcelos (PMDB)	24	Jarbas Vasconcelos	9
Jose Queiroz (PDT)	11	Jose Queiroz	4
None	5	Luis Inacio Lula da Silva	1
Don't know	12	Antonio Geraldo	1
Total	100	Marco Maciel	1
		Roberto Magalhaes	1
		Roberto Freire	1
		No one	3
		Don't know	49
		Others*	8
		Total	100

*Including the present governor, Miguel Arraes (4 percent), and President Collor (1 percent), both ineligible.

Bahia

(Suggested Responses)		(Volunteered Responses)	
Candidate	Percent	Candidate	Percent
Roberto Santos (PMDB)	21	Joao Durval	5
Luis Pedro Irujo (PRN)	15	Antonio Carlos Magalhaes	4
Mario Kertesz (no party affiliation)	12	Mario Kertesz	3
Luis Eduardo Magalhaes (PFL)	11	Roberto Santos	3
Joaci Goes (PSDB)	5	Luis Pedro Irujo	2
Jose Lourenco (PDS)	2	Joaci Goes	2
Sergio Gabrielli (PT)	1	Pedral Sampaio	1
Domingos Leonelli (PSB)	1	Marcos Medrado	1
None	17	Luis Inacio Lula da Silva	1
Don't know	15	No one	9
Total	100	Don't know	59
		Others*	10
		Total	100

*Including the present governor, Nilo Coelho (4 percent), who is ineligible.

Federal District

(Suggested Responses)		(Volunteered Responses)	
Candidate	Percent	Candidate	Percent
Mauricio Correa (PDT)	28	Joaquim Roriz	50
Valmir Campelo (PTB)	15	Lauro Campos	3
Lauro Campos (PT)	13	Mauricio Correa	3
Mucio Ataide (no party affiliation)	7	Luis Inacio Lula da Silva	1
Carlos Alberto (PCB)	4	No one	3
Sigmaringa Seixas (PSDB)	3	Don't know	37
None	23	Others	3
Don't know	7	Total	100
Total	100		

Influence of State Governors and President Collor on State Elections

If the present governor supported a candidate for state government, what would you do? And if Collor did?

(Suggested Responses in %)

Category	Sao Paulo		Rio de Janeiro		Minas Gerais		Parana	
	Orestes Quercia	Collor	Moreira Franco	Collor	Newton Cardoso	Collor	Alvaro Dias	Collor
Might vote for that candidate	21	25	15	28	17	36	40	39
Would not vote for that candidate	15	9	37	19	35	11	14	13
His support would make no difference	55	55	42	44	41	43	40	42
Other answers	9	11	6	9	7	10	6	6

If the present governor supported a candidate for state government, what would you do? And if Collor did?

(Suggested Responses in %)

Category	Rio Grande do Sul		Bahia		Pernambuco		Ceara		Federal District	
	Pedro Simon	Collor	Nilo Coelho		Miguel Arraes	Collor	Tasso Jereissati	Collor	Joaquim Roriz	Collor
Might vote for that candidate	26	27	30	40	33	37	35	43	36	27
Would not vote for that candidate	27	14	19	11	17	11	15	8	12	14
His support would make no difference	54	55		37	36	38	36	34	47	53
Other answers	3	4	1	12	14	14	14	15	5	6

Colombia

Leftist Candidate Pizarro Shot on Avianca Flight

WA2604155290 Paris AFP in English 1550 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, April 26 (AFP)—Carlos Pizarro, presidential candidate for the disbanded M-19 [19 April Movement] guerrilla group, was shot Thursday [26 April] aboard a passenger plane, airport officials reported.

Radio stations said the former guerrilla commander was taken to a hospital in Bogota.

The control tower at El Dorado International Airport here received a message from an Avianca pilot saying Mr. Pizarro had been shot by one or several people aboard the Avianca airline plane, which had been en route to Barranquilla, on the Caribbean coast.

Reportedly Dies From Wounds

PA2604163790 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1615 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] Apparently, bad news has been reported at the National Social Welfare Institute. Here is a report by Jairo Tarasona.

[Tarasona] Even though the doctors have not yet fully confirmed it, Eduardo Pizarro Leongomez, brother of Carlos Pizarro Leongomez, has left the clinic looking sad. The bodyguards of Pizarro and [Antonio] Navarro [Wolff] have confirmed to RCN that just now, or a few seconds ago, Carlos Pizarro Leongomez died in surgery.

We repeat: According to information supplied by the bodyguards and by Eduardo Pizarro Leongomez as he left the operating room, M-19 leader Carlos Pizarro Leongomez died a few seconds ago from the bullet wounds he received in this morning's attack.

The authorities have set up heavy police security in the area of the hospital, bearing in mind that there has been some reaction and even some shots have been fired here, inside the clinic. The authorities are working to control the situation and requests for calm have been made. At any rate, the situation here at the Institute is confusing following the report that Pizarro has died just a few minutes ago.

Communique Confirms Death

PA2604173990 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1607 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] A few minutes ago an official spokesman from the National Social Security Fund [CNPS] read the following communique confirming the death of Mr. Pizarro.

[Begin unidentified spokesman recording] The CNPS regrets to inform the people that presidential candidate Carlos Pizarro Leongomez was admitted to the emergency room this morning, after having been shot several times in the head and neck a few minutes earlier. These shots caused very serious neurological and cerebral wounds as well as grave wounds to the face and neck.

Despite the efforts of a team of doctors, including general surgeons, neurosurgeons, anesthetists, ophthalmologists, doctors from the intensive-care unit, and other staff members of the CNPS, it was not possible to save his life and he died [7-second break in reception]. [end recording]

...got into an altercation with the M-19 leaders who were there at the time shouting slogans. They did not allow the CNPS spokesman to finish reading the communique.

The authorities have again cordoned off the area. The M-19 members are protesting the murder of Pizarro Leongomez [7-second break in reception]. I would like to mention that the National Police, the F-2, and the Administrative Departament of Security are currently looking for at least two collaborators of the paid assassin who murdered M-19 leader Pizarro Leongomez.

The authorities have reported that at least two men collaborated with the murderer inside the HK-1400 plane that was flying between Bogota and Barranquilla. The authorities have also reported that the machinegun used by the paid assassin, who identified himself as Alvaro Rodriguez, was hidden in the bathroom. Now the authorities are trying to establish if the weapon was placed there at the Bucaramanga Airport, where the plane had been for the past few hours, or if it was placed there in Bogota.

The police had searched the paid assassin twice before the incident but did not find any weapons.

Avianca Pilot Reports Details

PA2604231090 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1832 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Telephone interview with Avianca pilot Fabio Murillo by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] How long after takeoff did the incident occur? What was your altitude at the time of the incident?

[Murillo] We had taken off approximately eight minutes earlier. We were flying at an approximate altitude of 16,000 feet above sea level; 8,000 feet over Bogota. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] How did you learn about what was going on? How did it all happen?

[Murillo] We turned off the seatbelt lights, and we heard something that sounded like firecrackers. [passage omitted] The flight supervisor came in immediately to let us know that a machine gun had been fired in the cabin. Since we knew that Pizarro was on board, and even though we knew he had bodyguards, we figured something had happened to him.

[Reporter] What happened after you learned that shots had been fired and that Pizarro was wounded?

[Murillo] Pizarro's bodyguards reacted immediately and controlled the situation inside the plane. We were advised that Pizarro had been injured. After we heard that shots had been fired we knew that, for security reasons, we had to turn back to Bogota. When shots are fired the bullets will perforate the structure of the plane. We turned back immediately. We followed the normal procedures for these cases—request landing priority, request an ambulance for the wounded party, and advise the authorities. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Captain, did you see Pizarro after he was wounded?

[Murillo] No, because he was seated at the rear of the plane. We parked the craft in what we call a sterile area so the ambulance could get close. The ambulance came close to the tail of the plane; we took him out the back ladder, and he was then taken directly to the hospital. I did not see him.

[Reporter] Did you see Pizarro before he boarded the plane?

[Murillo] No, I did not. [passage omitted] When we arrived at the plane, the police and the Army were very active. They told us that the bodyguards were on board. I had flown with the bodyguards three or four days earlier. I knew the chief bodyguard, and we had reached sort of an arrangement, if you will, to the effect that they could carry their weapons on board. They were told they

were to fly in the tail seats, and they would not let the passengers see their weapons so as not to alarm the other passengers.

I was also told Avianca security officials had carried out the normal checks. Bomb experts had used dogs to check out any explosives or bombs. This is something that Avianca has been doing for the past six months. In addition, the police had searched the plane and found everything in perfect order.

The weapon was not on board. When the experts examined the body of the assassin, they found he was wearing a girdle and had the weapon strapped below the waist, practically near his groin. The weapon was not detected prior to boarding. [passage omitted] This man was wearing that girdle so tightly that the weapon left an imprint on his skin.

[Reporter] What kind of weapon was it?

[Murillo] It was a mini-Uzi.

[Reporter] A small machine gun.

[Murillo] That is right, that is a very small weapon, but it is very effective. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Should we understand then that the man boarded the plane already wearing the girdle with the weapon strapped on, or that he put on the girdle and strapped the weapon on inside the restroom?

[Murillo] He boarded the plane already wearing the girdle and hiding the weapon. This girdle allowed him to hide the weapon. He entered the restroom to remove the weapon from his body.

[Reporter] In other words, this man was hiding that weapon under a girdle when he boarded the plane. He was armed when he boarded the plane?

[Murillo] That is correct.

[Reporter] Was it not possible to detect that weapon during the security check?

[Murillo, hesitating] It all depends on the type of security check that is done. Sometimes, when there are so many passengers, perhaps....[hesitating] Let me put it this way, if the passenger's private parts are touched during a security check, he will become angry. He was hiding the weapon quite close to his private parts. [passage omitted] The assassin boarded the plane in Bogota, with the final destination of Barranquilla. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What did this man do in the plane?

[Murillo] He was seated in row five, left hand side.

[Reporter] Very far from Pizarro and his bodyguards?

[Murillo] Yes, Pizarro was in row 24, the penultimate row. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What did the assassin do then?

[Murillo] When the seatbelt sign was turned off, he got up and went to the tail of the plane and asked the flight attendant where the restrooms were located. [passage omitted] Apparently, while he was in the restroom, one of the bodyguards—the one who killed him—heard the sound made when an automatic weapon is being loaded. That is a very particular sound, and maybe that alerted him. The assassin stepped outside the restroom, shooting directly at Pizarro. The bodyguard immediately killed him. [passage omitted]

Extraditables Claim Killing

PA2604172390 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1650 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Report by Jairo Correa]

[Text] The caller identified himself as Zapatoca—this must be an alias. He said he is an active member of the Extraditables group with headquarters in Medellin. He said that Carlos Pizarro Leongomez's death was a result of a coin toss over Cesar Gaviria, Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, Carlos Pizarro, and Alvaro Gomez. Today's bad luck fell on Carlos Pizarro Leongomez.

The caller said that he was acting under the orders of (Kiki Castano) and Henry Perez and that the two people killed inside the plane were recruited by Pirina, Don Jairo Tazcon, the head of the Medellin hired assassins. He added that this series of criminal attacks will continue as long as the government does not give them political - military treatment. He said that the Extraditables have set aside their struggle against extradition. They are now demanding political - military treatment and have threatened to continue with this type of action. They warn that they have what they have called an Iranian-made (Z-5 K), which according to Zapatoca will be used for the first time in Bogota within the next few days.

Extraditables Deny Responsibility

PA2604223890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2100 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 26 Apr (EFE)—The Extraditables, the armed branch of the Medellin cartel, denied today in a telephone call to a radio station by an alleged member, any responsibility for the death of Carlos Pizarro, political leader and former guerrilla commander.

The caller identified himself as John Jairo Arias Tascon. He called the Caracol Network in Medellin to announce that the charges against the Medellin Cartel are part of a plan to blame them for all violent actions in the country.

The authors of the assassination are sectors who seek to destabilize the country, Arias Tascon added.

Pizarro, former leader of the M-19, the guerrilla group that laid down its weapons on 9 March, was killed by the impact of three bullets fired at him aboard a Colombian

Avianca flight that was en route to the city of Barranquilla along the country's Atlantic Coast.

After the crime, at 1100 (1600 GMT), an individual who identified himself as Sapatoca called Caracol to report that the killing had been ordered by Fidel Castano and Henry Perez, heads of the extreme rightist paramilitary militias. Sapatoca added that Castano and Perez perpetrated the crime following orders from the Extraditables.

Castano was connected to the 22 March death of Bernardo Jaramillo, a presidential candidate from the leftist Patriotic Union (UP), although at that time it was reported that Castano headed a paramilitary organization that did not implicate the Extraditables.

On that occasion, Pablo Escobar, leader of the Extraditables and the Medellin Cartel, denied that the drug traffickers had killed Jaramillo.

A confidential report drafted recently by the Administrative Department of Security (DAS, Colombian secret police), said that some Army and Police members cooperate with Castano's criminal organization.

Navarro Wolff, number two leader of M-19, told reporters today after Pizarro was killed that his burial must be attended by all the country, because we must repudiate crimes such as this.

Navarro Wolff said that Pizarro's death shows that the country is in turmoil and that it will be very difficult to rebuild the country. There is no space except for pain and ire, he added.

Carlos' burial must be peaceful, as was M-19's example of peace given to the country, he added.

It is hard to explain how things such as this occur when the M-19 and Carlos Pizarro were setting an example of prudence, tolerance, and understanding, Navarro said.

Pizarro, a former guerrilla commander who led his armed group toward demobilization after 17 months of political negotiations with Virgilio Barco's government, told newsmen before boarding the aircraft: We are doing well. This was a reference to the M-19 electoral campaign.

Pizarro stated in his last public statement: I am certain that we will know how to wage opposition. We will engage in a very pretty democratic play with regard to the next government. We will participate in building a new Colombian democracy.

The M-19 participated for the first time in the 11 March elections, becoming the third political force in Bogota.

Nothing has been said yet concerning the burial of Pizarro, who was born 39 years ago in Cartagena de Indias and who leaves three orphan daughters, aged 12, 9, and 4.

President Issues Statement

PA2604215790 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 2007 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Good afternoon, we have just received a statement issued by President Virgilio Barco Vargas concerning the murder of Mr. Carlos Pizarro Leongomez. The message reads as follows:

Carlos Pizarro's murder is a monstrous crime that has cut short the life of a man who had shown his will for peace and his commitment to Colombia. The crime was directed at hindering the development of the electoral process and destroying the reconciliation process that the government and M-19 have carefully constructed, surpassing many obstacles. In this case, as in many others, this painful tragedy should serve to consolidate the ideals of peace and pluralism for which so many Colombians have struggled—one of them, Carlos Pizarro. It should serve to reassert our repudiation of violence and our faith in democratic procedures.

Further on, the president's message notes:

Pizarro's relatives and his followers know that the government, and I personally, feel great anger and sadness, but we will not be discouraged. We will uphold the banners of reconciliation, pluralism, and the right to freely and peacefully express any idea. We will also continue to unmask and combat enemies of peace.

The president adds in his message:

I interpret the desire of all Colombians who admired Carlos Pizarro's democratic vocation, by warning those who are responsible for this tragic murder that they will not manage to destroy what has been worked for so hard with the support of political forces and the people who voted for peace on 11 March to open a road for peace that is clear, possible, and defined.

The president's message continues:

You know that during this peace process, many enemies and difficulties were overcome, but none has been so great as this tragedy that has shaken all Colombians. The obligation that lies before us is to keep open the road to peace that the murderers of Carlos Pizarro want to destroy. Article 95 of the electoral code indicates that when a presidential candidate dies, another person in his own movement has the right to take his place. In compliance with this norm, the government will offer every facility for the registry of a new M-19 presidential candidate so he can continue to hoist the flags of peace and pluralism as is proper for a democratic debate.

The president also says in his message:

I have asked the government minister and the peace adviser to meet as soon as possible with M-19 representatives so that together they may study alternatives to confront such a serious situation. As soon as possible, the government minister will also direct contacts with the rest of the political forces to request their opinions about

the present situation and to continue to give all the necessary guarantees so the electoral process may develop according to what is established in the Constitution and our laws.

The message ends:

I invite all Colombians who are tired of so much violence to come to the polls in the next elections and vote for peace and pluralism. I invite all political and social forces to join in solidarity with the electoral process and defend the institutions that are threatened by violence. It is time for good sense and prudence. It is time to rise to the occasion and show our commitment to democracy.

This is the text of President Virgilio Barco's message on the murder Mr. Carlos Pizarro Leongomez.

Serpa Says Elections To Proceed

PA2604193890 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1807 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Government Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe, who has just left the National Social Welfare Institute, has denounced the assassination of Carlos Pizarro Leongomez. He added that no thought has been given to suspending the elections in the wake of this development, and added that the country must not be left in violent hands.

The government minister commented further on the top M-19 leader's assassination:

[Begin recording] [Serpa] The occurrence of such sad and criminal developments is truly a disgrace. It has saddened everyone greatly. I feel that this was not only an attack against former candidate Pizarro but an attack against the country, democracy, and the electoral process. I feel that we must respond to aggressiveness and crime with feelings of conciliation and peace.

[Reporter] Has any thought been given to suspending the elections after this assassination, bearing in mind that Pizarro was one of the most important candidates?

[Serpa] He was undoubtedly one of the most important candidates. The government always thought so. In addition, the government highly regards the peacemking process it has been carrying out with the M-19, in which Pizarro was undoubtedly a key player. We have adopted some decisions in this regard. I am going to meet with the head of state and all of us will be closely watching the sad developments which Colombia is experiencing, with a desire to meeting the need for tranquillity and coexistence which, unfortunately, we have not had thus far.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, what does the fact that two presidential candidates have been assassinated in less than 40 days represent to the government? How does the government look before the nation and the world?

[Serpa] Well, I repeat, this is a very sad circumstance. This is extremely worrisome, of course. Like all Colombians, we are troubled over the fact that we are constantly being inundated with crime and bloodshed. The government is doing the impossible to protect all citizens and to guarantee the elections and the normal development of Colombians' lives. However, there are deluded minds and there are criminals who are interested in damaging the country. This is an attack against Colombia, against the Colombian people.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, have you at any time thought of adopting special measures? What is the status of the public-order situation in Colombia at this time? What reports do you have?

[Serpa] No, there is calm in general. The government is very worried, of course. We are going to meet now to discuss this terrible case.

[Reporter] However, do you not think that it is very difficult to go on campaigning in public at this moment?

[Serpa] I would not dare make any assertion in this regard. What I feel is that we must not yield a single centimeter to the violent people and the criminals. [end recording]

Serpa made these statements a few minutes ago as he left the National Social Welfare Institute, where an autopsy is being performed at this moment on Pizarro's body.

Serpa Addresses Nation

PA2704040690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0302 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Speech by Government Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Good evening. We Colombians had not gotten over yesterday's cruel attack in Medellin when we were confronted with another disgrace that took the life of presidential candidate Carlos Pizarro. In a message from the president of the Republic, the government voiced its deep anger and sadness over this criminal attack, and it ratified its determination to continue to struggle without dismay against all forms of crimes and the criminals who are so infamously attacking peace and democracy.

This is no time to abandon any attitude that is deemed advisable for the nation. In the face of the fratricidal and antipatriotic violence, we must answer with actions of understanding and conciliation, with decisions that will dismantle the bands of criminals who are doing such serious harm to the people, and with the determination that will renew faith in democratic principles and in the purpose to achieve the best levels of coexistence. The government is determined to do this.

However, this responsibility lies with all Colombians of goodwill. From each of our fellow countrymen we demand positive actions and a great solidarity with those who have the responsibility of safeguarding citizens'

security throughout the nation. The peace, understanding, and conciliation to which Carlos Pizarro was committed should continue to be the basic goals of the country and of its citizens.

All the necessary measures that will lead to clarifying that treacherous crime are being taken to determine who is responsible and then punish them. To this effect, the government's action will be very severe, and the investigating authorities are already being provided very ample cooperation.

The government maintains direct communications with the M-19 leaders, and it has been attentive to its demands, charges, and concerns. There is a marked interest because there continue to be direct relations with all political parties, the various political and social associations, and the presidential candidates, concerning the implementation and effectiveness of security and indispensable guarantees for us to hold the elections on 27 May, as the people want.

National coexistence, together with the citizens' demands for reforms, will continue to be a basic goal of the government of Dr. Virgilio Barco, who will tomorrow address Colombians. M-19 has asked the government to allow it to make public its feelings and opinions in the face of this great tragedy.

Through me, and according to the provisions of Law 42 of 1985, the government has requested this air time so Antonio Navarro Wolff, spokesman of the political party whose presidential candidate was brutally murdered today, will be able to freely express his ideas.

Those who seek to exclude from the electoral process a political party—regardless of which one it may be—will not achieve it, because the government will guarantee that its voice will continue to be heard. Despite the difficulties, Colombian democracy will prevail.

Political Leaders Comment

PA2604203690 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1755 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] [Reporter] Political party spokesmen, especially the presidential candidates, have spoken out over the death of their colleague Carlos Pizarro, who was the M-19 candidate. We have with us Dr. Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, Conservative Party candidate, who wishes to make a statement. Welcome, Dr. Gomez.

[Gomez] This is the most serious provocation in recent history against the Republic. Carlos Pizarro wished to become a symbol of peace. I believed in his sincerity. He walked a long path before arriving at his legal reconciliation. He made a worthy effort that was always risky. He was brave and knew how to direct his new life, and campaigned in an enchanting style. He was beginning to reap the fruits of a new language. Many times he proposed ideas that to my way of thinking sounded like the ones I believed were needed to recover harmony and save the country.

My life was in his hands, according to what he himself told me. Despite all that sorrowful kidnapping process, aside from my attitude of protest, he managed for me to bear no resentment in my soul. We built up a friendship, which lately allowed us to clearly understand the country's needs. Today I wish to pay homage to the fighter who believed that my sacrifice could move national awareness in such a way that it would lead to peace. You know very well that I can smile while saying this—just as he would have—if we had been in the middle of a friendship that due to circumstances never managed to blossom. [sentence as heard] The consequences of his sacrifice are not predictable. People look around and see only anarchy. The absence of government makes each one try to find his own way out. This is a devastating situation for the institutions and the Republic. If there is no authority, we will need to summon the people. Meanwhile, we can only let stand our indignation and our decided will to remain here, leading freedom, and vigilant so as not to waste the little time left to save the country.

[Reporter] Dr. Gomez, after this statement, may I ask you a question?

[Gomez] Go ahead.

[Reporter] Dr. Gomez, you have just said that this is the most serious provocation against the Republic, and, in addition, you say if there is no authority then the people will have to be summoned.

[Gomez] We are going to have to call on the people. This must be done properly and not in a hurry.

[Reporter] How are you going to call on the people, Dr. Gomez?

[Gomez] Let me think. This is why I say we cannot risk what may well be the only possibility the country has of coming out ahead.

[Reporter] Thank you, Dr. Gomez.

Meanwhile, in Bogota, Social Conservative candidate Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo said a few minutes ago that if in Colombia hatred, vengeance, and reprisals are not buried, total peace will be impossible to achieve. Lloreda regretted the murder of M-19 leader Carlos Pizarro Leongomez, who was on his way to Barranquilla to continue his presidential campaign. He said that Pizaaro's murder moved him deeply because he had recently visited him at his political headquarters to tell him his ideas on Colombian politics and democracy.

Rodrigo LLoreda Caicedo also said he does not know if the climate is right to supend the elections and said he will continue with his commitment to his voters and millions of Colombians who have shown confidence in him and hope to elect him on 25 May.

M-19 Will Not Resume Struggle

PA2604211190 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1903 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Neiva—(Marcos Charita), regional chief of the M-19, has warned that his movement will not give up its political agenda because of the assassination of its presidential candidate, Carlos Pizarro Leongomez. He said that M-19 will not fall for provocations by warmongers and noted that there is no sense in the proposal to postpone the elections.

[Begin (Charita) recording] We are moving ahead with M-19's political agenda. We feel that despite today's events, M-19 will not give up, but will continue its struggle to someday bring peace to the Colombians. I think that the challenge of today's assassination summons all of us Colombians to reinforce not only the peace proposal, but the democratic and nationalist agenda and the agenda and proposal of the government of national salvation, which I think must be one of M-19's clear proposals to the country.

I do not think we will allow ourselves to be provoked by even the smallest of forces. I understand that minimal forces are those that are also doing even the impossible to doom us to tragedy—to the tragedy of war. We believe that we, the 28 million Colombians who remain alive, must have the intelligence and daring to [word indistinct] the war. We feel that the historical mission of defeating the warmongers and giving peace to the Colombians is left for that government of national salvation. [end recording]

(Charita), who was one of the organization's military chiefs, ruled out a return to the armed struggle and pointed out that its leaders will not go underground, but will continue to discuss their proposals at the hustings.

In another development, 15 M-19 activists occupied the temple of San Antonio in Pitalito a few minutes ago.

There is complete calm in Neiva and a protest march has been scheduled for 1700.

New M-19 Leader Stresses Peace

PA2704041290 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0305 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Statement made by M-19 leader Antonio Navarro Wolff on 26 April; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] We are in mourning. The entire country has been shocked by the terrible assassination of Carlos Pizarro, the apostle of peace. Today, we doubt if peace is possible, if there is no life. Amid the sadness that surrounds us, we know that this mourning is for the fatherland that is being assassinated with Jaime Pardo Leal, Luis Carlos Galan, Bernardo Jaramillo, and all others who have been killed by the horsemen of death.

Today we ask all M-19 members, all our friends, and Colombians to bury Carlos in peace—the peace for which he fought, the peace he was building and for which he was killed. We want all families and all regions of the fatherland to participate in the mourning by displaying the country's flag in their houses. We want them to accompany us in Carlos' vigil at the National Capitol. We want them to accompany us at the funeral in Bogota on Saturday, at 1000.

To those who killed Carlos, we want to tell them that M-19 men and women are determined to work to their last breath to keep this crime from going unpunished.

We do not want to talk about politics. We do not want to talk about elections. We only want our friend, our brother, and our leader to be buried in peace. Let us all accompany him. He deserves it and Colombia will live, I promise.

This has been signed by Antonio Navarro Wolff, Otti Patino, German Rojas, and Libardo Parra, the survivors of the M-19 Command.

Liberal Party Reacts

PA2604220490 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1826 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Interview with Liberal Party presidential candidate Cesar Gaviria on 26 April; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] We have now made contact with Liberal Party presidential candidate Cesar Gaviria. He will talk to us just as have other political leaders and presidential candidates.

[Reporter] Dr. Gaviria, good afternoon, you have a communique you want released?

[Gaviria] Yes, Juan, I have a statement I want to read as presidential candidate and national leader of the Colombian Liberal Party.

[Reporter] Could you read it please?

[Gaviria] Of course, Juan. In my position as presidential candidate and national leader of the Colombian Liberal Party, I want to express my most profound indignation at the despicable crime against Carlos Pizarro Leongomez. This is a new act by a powerful criminal organization that has mercilessly devoted itself to carrying out actions of hatred, intolerance, and the most criminal of violence with the intention of creating an empire of evil and crime.

The extremes reached by Colombian society are the result of ignoring our nation's problems. For more than two decades we have allowed drug trafficking to grow and progress in a climate of complete impunity.

Paramilitary groups grew and prospered in an unbelievable climate of indifference and complicity until drug trafficking made them the most powerful machinery of cruelty ever known in Colombian history.

However, they will not stop us. Good, healthy, and clean people, friends of peace and progress, make up the vast majority of Colombians. All our political and social forces represent this majority and we should all advance toward a goal—to change our nation's institutions. We will have to begin by restoring the effectiveness that our authorities need to fight crime and the ability that our justice needs to investigate and punish criminals.

We will have to thoroughly change institutions that are weak and anachronistic, institutions that no longer have anything to do with the great challenges of crime or the aspirations and hopes of Colombians.

In view of the terrorism, we must show that even in the face of the most powerful attacks by criminal organizations, our democracy can defend the constitutional principles that allow us to preserve the Constitution.

In this terrible moment of mourning, I want to extend my sincere condolences to Carlos Pizarro's relatives, M-19, and all the friends and companeros of the late leader.

In an act of courage, Carlos Pizarro Leongomez, an example to all Colombians today, abandoned violence to seek peaceful paths in the search for political aspirations.

The country is legitimately demanding that the actions the authorities are carrying out in several areas of the country against criminal organizations soon lead to specific results.

I intend to contact all political forces, beginning with M-19 and the Patriotic Union [UP]—the worst affected by the criminal blows—to analyze the profound crisis of our institutions and guarantee the continuity of our democracy. Antidotes against violence must be sought by strengthening all its [word indistinct] regardless of political affiliation. This is what democracy is all about. With the help of good Colombians we will continue the task of defending peace and democracy in our nation and we will restore optimism and faith in a better future for our children and the new generations of Colombians.

[Reporter] In view of Mr. Pizarro Leongomez' death, will you postpone your scheduled political activities.

[Gaviria] Yes, of course. I have canceled all political activities scheduled for the next few days.

[Reporter] Will you meet with party advisers?

[Gaviria] Yes, I have been in contact with all those who have to do with this profound crisis of Colombian society and its institutions and, as I have announced in the communique, I intend to contact all political forces, beginning with M-19 and the UP, and continuing with all the other political forces, to analyze this crisis and guarantee the continuity of our democratic system.

[Reporter] It seems that it has become increasingly difficult to be involved in politics, Dr. Gaviria.

[Gaviria] Yes, undoubtedly. Criminal organizations are very active and are showing a profound ability to alter the normal operation of our democratic life and threaten the top leaders of Colombian society. On this occasion, the victim was a person who, in a great act of courage, had abandoned violence and had set out, through peaceful means, to seek political office. People should know that Carlos Pizarro was aware of the huge risks he was taking because of his decision to place his trust in our democracy. He has sacrificed his life for our democracy.

[Reporter] Dr. Gaviria, thank you very much.

[Gaviria] You are welcome.

UP Wants Elections Postponed

PA2604191090 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1812 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota—The UP today reiterated its request that the presidential elections of 27 May be postponed. In a communique, the UP states that in view of the recent assassination of lawyer Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa and now that of M-19 leader Carlos Pizarro Leongomez it is necessary to seek a political solution to the serious developments faced by the country.

'Total Offensive' Launched Against Escobar

PA2604182290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0810 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 26 Apr (EFE)—The government has announced a total offensive to capture Medellin cartel boss Pablo Escobar Gaviria following the death yesterday of nine people in an attack by the Extraditables in Medellin.

The offensive was announced at the end of an urgent meeting of the Security Council called by Government Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe, who is acting president because of President Virgilio Barco's trip to Nicaragua to attend the inauguration of President Violeta Chamorro.

Serpa said that Escobar has become enemy number one and noted that all of the authorities' efforts are now centered on his capture. The minister said that Escobar is behind the onslaught of violence and asked the population to cooperate with the authorities' efforts to capture him. "Pablo Escobar is behind the onslaught of violence," the government minister said.

Nine people died and approximately 50 were wounded when a car loaded with 200 kg of dynamite exploded in a heavily populated district in Medellin known as Las Americas. Police sources said that the car bomb, which was camouflaged with construction waste, was set off by remote control when an elite police patrol was passing.

The explosion seriously damaged over 10 private vehicles and at least three buses with passengers, as well as a dozen business establishments and private residences.

Defense Minister General Oscar Botero Restrepo said that the attack was the work of the Extraditables, the armed wing of the Medellin Cartel, one of the biggest drug-processing and drug-trafficking organizations in the world. Medellin, Colombia's second largest city, is the home of the cartel and of its armed wing—the Extraditables—which described themselves in March as a political-military organization and declared war on the Colombian state.

The Extraditables announced at the time that they were relegating to second place their struggle to prevent the extradition of Colombians to the United States, and that their top priority would be to fight the state, the oligarchy, and the members of the police who kidnap, torture, and murder the members of their organization and their families.

Yesterday's attack was the second to be carried out against Colombia's special antidrug and counterinsurgency elite police corps. On 11 March another car bomb loaded with over 100 kg of dynamite was detonated in an attack against a police vehicle on the freeway south of Medellin. Eight policemen and nine civilians were killed in the explosion.

Peru

APRA Decorates Chilean Socialists' Almeyda

PY2704030890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Clodomiro Almeyda, a former Chilean foreign minister and president of the Chilean Socialist Party, has been decorated with the Order of Chavin, the highest decoration granted by Peru's APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance], for the close relations and friendship maintained between the two political organizations.

APRA Secretary General Luis Alva Castro was entrusted with the task of decorating Almeyda. The important ceremony was held at APRA headquarters. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Rise in Unemployment Reported for Last Quarter

PY2604231690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0711 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Montevideo, 26 Apr (EFE)—According to the government's Statistics and Census Directorate, the unemployment rate in Uruguay rose from 7.70 to 8.29 percent over the last three months. The same source yesterday disclosed that out of the total number of unemployed, 2.15 percent are youths looking for a job for the first time and 0.8 percent receive a partial subsidy from the government. The report adds that 3.48 percent are men and 4.81 percent women, and that the industrial and construction sectors are the most affected. The unemployment rate in the industrial sector rose from 7.4 to 8.5 percent, and in the construction sector, from 8.2 to nine percent.

Suriname

Bouterse Returns From Dominican Republic Visit

FL2604182190 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] The National Army in the future wants to strengthen relations with armed forces in the region. This was stated by Army Commander Desi Bouterse this morning at the Zanderij Airport shortly after his return from the Dominican Republic. During his visit to the Dominican Republic, Bouterse held discussions with that country's minister of defense and top-ranking Army officials. National and international questions were discussed at his meetings. According to the Army commander, the intention is to significantly strengthen relations with other armed forces in the region.

Reacts to Arrest-Powers Bill

FL2604181090 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Army Commander Desi Bouterse claims that the withdrawing of the powers of arrest from the Military Police will have a negative effect on the fight against criminality in the country. Bouterse told this to journalists this morning in reaction to the draft law by the government to withdraw the powers of arrest from the Military Police.

The Army commander this morning returned from the Dominican Republic where he had been on a two-week private visit. Bouterse said there could be better coordination between the National Army and the police force in the fight against criminality. He asked himself who will be responsible for the protection of the borders of Suriname if the powers of arrest are taken away from the Military Police. The National Army will, however, respect any decision on this matter by the National Assembly, said Bouterse.

He is, however, of the opinion that the implementation of an eventual law on this question will face practical problems. The draft law to withdraw the powers of arrest from the Military Police is directly connected to the recent arrest of 11 Jungle Commando members in Paramaribo by the Military Police.